



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION

NUMBER 1, 1994

MARCH

EXECUTIVE NEWS.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 1993.

Another successful year has concluded for members of Central Bureau Intelligence Corps Association (C.B.I.C.A.)

My personal thanks, also the thanks of members, are extended to our Committee for their performance in the arrangements of the various functions and activities throughout the year.

On behalf of the Executive Committee our sincere thanks to the Victorian Members who were responsible for a most enjoyable reunion.

As the functions and activities have already been reported in Newsletters I will list them for the benefit of new members or those who may have missed seeing Newsletters.

- 1st. February, 1993 Annual General Meeting
- 24th. April, 1993 Wreath Laying - Martin Place Cenotaph.
- 25th. April, 1993 Anzac March.
- 25th. April, 1993 Anzac Reunion - Phillip's Foote.
- 5th. August, 1993 Tour of Spectacle Island.
- 15th. August, 1993 V.P.(V.J.) Day Service and Wreath Laying - Cenotaph
- 13th & 14th Nov. 1993 Melbourne Reunion.

To incoming officers and Committee Members may you have an even more successful and rewarding year than the one just completed.

To Members of C.B.I.C.A. and their families my sincere wishes for health and happiness in 1994.

Aub. Roberts.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Combined Services

Club, Barrack Street, Sydney on Monday 7th. February, 1994. Eighteen members attended the A.G.M. which was pleasing to see as our members are spread over a wide area.

The A.G.M. progressed in accordance with the agenda distributed 22nd. December, 1993.

*Apologies were received and noted by the Hon. Secretary.

*The Hon. Secretary, (Gordon Gibson) read the minutes of the A.G.M. held 1st. February, 1993, the minutes of the previous A.G.M. were confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting's activities.

*I presented the President's Report—the Report reflected on the many successful functions throughout the past year,—thanking those who were able to attend and those who were responsible for the organisation of the various activities.

*The Treasurer, Norma Keeling presented an audited income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st. December, 1993.

It showed:-

Receipts for year	\$5024.90
Expenditure	\$4680.39

Balance at bank was \$1324.82 an increase from the year ended 31st. December, 1992 which was \$980.31.

Once again the majority of our transactions, both in receipts and expenditure related to our reunion (Melbourne).

Another major expenditure was postage, printing and stationery amounting to \$1204.53 an increase from the total for 1992 of \$957.63.

The Treasurer's Report was adopted.

*Election of office bearers: the President declared all positions vacant and called on Past President, Jim Williams, to conduct the election of office bearers for 1994.

Bruce Bentwich was nominated for the position of Vice-President, Bruce declined the nomination.

It was proposed and adopted by those present, that the office bearers for the past year, 1993, be re-elected for the year 1994.

Our honorary Auditor, Ron Chidgey, was not present but Madeline Chidgey assured the meeting that Ron was willing to undertake the task for another year. Our thanks, Ron for your ongoing service to the Association.

The 1994 Executive is as below:-

President	Aub Roberts.
Vice-Presidents	Michael Casey. Noni Mc.Naught
Secretary	Gordon Gibson
Treasurer	Norma Keeling
Publicity Officer	Dennis Moore
Committee Members	Madeline Chidgey Helen Kenny Bruce Bentwich
Honorary Auditor	Ron Chidgey.

I would like to take the opportunity of thanking the Annual General Meeting for re-electing me as President for the ensuing 12 months.

*The arrangements for the Anzac Day Commemoration are as previous years:

Anzac Eve (Sunday 24th. April) wreath laying ceremony at the Cenotaph, meeting 1830 hours corner Pitt Street and Martin Place.

Anzac Day March.

Reunion, as ever, to be held at Phillip's Foote Restaurant after the March.

*The meeting came to the last agenda item "General Business".

After brief discussion it was decided that Dennis Moore should do a repair job on the main banner for the 1994 Anzac commemoration and the Committee to pursue the acquisition of a new banner after considering design, size, material and of course, cost.

The Secretary outlined the venue for our 1994 reunion. More details will be included in Newsletters and correspondence.

At the closing of the 1994 Annual General Meeting members stood in silent tribute to deceased Members and Associates.

Looking forward to a happy and a successful 1994 for the Association.

Regards to all,
Aub. Roberts
Phone (02) 807 1426

HON. SECRETARY'S PAR.

COMBINED REUNION NUMBER 6—JAMBEROO VALLEY LODGE 12 - 14th NOVEMBER 1994

As the accompanying map shows, Jamberoo Valley Lodge is easily accessible by all forms of transport.

1. Road. (a) From Sydney. Turn off Princes Highway north of Albion Park and take Illawarra Highway to Albion Park then Jamberoo Road to Jamberoo then Jamberoo Mountain Road to Jamberoo Valley Lodge.

(b) From Melbourne via Hume Highway. Turn off Hume onto Illawarra Highway south of Moss Vale then through Sutton Forest, Moss Vale, Robertson to Albion Park via Macquarie Pass. Then see (a) above.

(c) From Melbourne via Princes Highway. Turn off Princes Highway at Kiama and take Jamberoo Road to Jamberoo then Jamberoo Mountain Road to Lodge.

2. Rail. (a) From Sydney. Take train to Albion Park or Kiama. Bus service from Kiama. See below for Albion Park.

(b) From Melbourne. Take train to Sydney then see 2 (b) above. OR take train to Moss Vale then bus to Albion Park. See below for Albion Park.

3. Air. The airport for Wollongong is located at Albion Park. By November there may be regular air services from Sydney. There is already a helicopter air lift from Albion Park direct to Jamberoo Valley Lodge. Further details in next Newsletter about this and the other forms of transport.

Apart from all those recreational activities like golf, tennis, swimming, bush-walking and so on mentioned in the previous Newsletter the programme for the Reunion is the usual one.

Saturday Night: Four Course Formal Dinner in Lodge Banquet Room. After dinner speaker: Frank Hughes. Subject: War Crimes Trials.

Sunday 10.30am.: Wreath Laying Ceremony at Jamberoo Memorial. Alan Langdon will give an address.

Sunday Midday: Barbeque Lunch in Lodge Grounds.

Should you wish to extend your stay either before or after the Reunion dates, please contact Jamberoo Valley Lodge direct and identify yourself as a C.B.I.C.A. member. (Charles is our contact person). The postal address is P.O. Box 44 Jamberoo NSW 2533. The phone number is (042) 360269. But be sure to return the intention notice accompanying this N.L. to Norma Keeling all the same and enclose your remittance for \$40 deposit on each room reserved. Otherwise we won't know of your intention to attend the Reunion and you may not receive the benefit of the special group rates.

INCORPORATION OF C.B.I.C.A.

For some time now your Committee has been pondering the advisability (or otherwise) of making the Association a corporate body. Rationale? In the event of an accident at one of our functions resulting in injury to a member of the public or even one of our own members or guests the possibility could arise of legal action for damages. Who could be sued? As things stand now it could be any individual member of the Association. How can we guard against this? By taking out a Public Liability Insurance Policy. But this cannot be done unless we first

become a corporate body. Your Committee sought advice on this matter from the Chief Executive Officer of the R.S.L. I quote from a letter received in reply. ".....the R.S.L. has Public Liability Insurance that protects the League but individual associations would need to protect themselves with Public Liability Insurance of their own. This coverage would be in place to protect the associations from any act that the law would find them responsible for over and above the R.S.L. Any activities such as reunions, movement to or from the march etc. would need to be covered as well. I suggest that you contact a broker or insurance company for further advice."

We did so and found that the annual premium for a coverage of \$2,000,000 would cost us between \$200 and \$300. This is roughly the background. At the next meeting of the Executive Committee on 11th April a decision will be made as to whether or not a Special General Meeting of the Association should be called to discuss the proposal that C.B.I.C.A. should become CBICA Inc. Meanwhile any comments or suggestions you may have on this important matter would be appreciated. It may be of interest to you to know that our brother Association is now A.I.A. Inc. Perhaps of even greater interest would be that financially it should not cost you a cent. Treasurer Norma is confident that there will be no need to raise the present subscription of \$10.

NEW MEMBER.

Noni Benn (nee Collins) of North Manly was with C.B. for about 15 months in the 1944 -45 period. Welcome, Noni, we look forward to meeting you on Anzac Day.

Gordon Gibson Hon. Sec.
7 Lindsay Close
Pymble 2073
(02) 449 9450

THE TREASURER'S COLUMN.

Hi everyone !

Almost time for another get-to-gether Anzac Day, hope we have a fine day and a good roll-up for the march, back to the good old walking shoes or joggers after so many months of dreadfully hot, almost unbearable weather.

As usual many notes attached to the subs. with snippets of news, greetings and best wishes for which I thank you all.

I do hope your sister is well off the sick list Nancy (Johnson). I also look forward to seeing you on Anzac Day.

Yes Lester, the A.G.M. went off well with a good attendance. All arrangements are going nicely for the Jamberoo Reunion so keep well and we look forward to seeing you and Kay there. I remember Walter Lackman, he was the other "Krazy Kid" with John L. Lewis; they were lots of fun. (We did have fun with the Yanks.)

Always nice to hear from you Allan (Osborne) : yes I'll keep going being Treasurer as long as the old brain functions; thanks

for your appreciation. Also thanks to you, Jack (Brown) for your appreciation, also Lou (Harris) and Alan (Flannery).

So glad you were wrong Marion re Stan and his membership — sorry we didn't get a chance to have a chat at the A.G.M.; all my stupidity re time start. I enjoyed your latest book Eve, we sure have some very clever authors amongst our members: thanks for the cutting about the passing of John Hounslow. that was very thoughtful of you.

Had to laugh at your reminiscences Max (Hurley) so glad to read that Ken Trezise thought our last reunion was a wonderful affair, do hope Max you'll make the next one at Jamberoo. Sorry Jean (Robertson) that we didn't know of your husband's passing in 1993 and do hope by now you have been able to settle in your new life and finding new outlets to fill the loss that you must have felt.

Thanks for your letter Will (Renshaw) — it would be great if you could get to our Jamberoo reunion in November.

I'd like to thank those members who brought their overdue fees up to date, I'm sure in most cases it's just an oversight.

I have a small book which means a great deal to me and in it are autographs from American C.B.'s I worked with at Hut 20 in the park at Ascot and I was wondering if anyone knew and perhaps was in touch with any of these names, if so I'd be delighted to hear from you:— Barney Perler, Newton Allen, Don Ledwith, Charles Higuera, Earle Hibbs, Bob Koshland, Hank Weber, Pat Patterson, Garrison Mitchell, Ray Rivera, Michel Beauchman, Arthur Sullivan, Irving Brown, Pablo Costello and James Ballard.

Will conclude with my usual ending:—

"In youth we learn; in age we understand."

Norma Keeling.

LAST POST.



Evelyn.

TOM HOUNSLOW, late of Warwick in Queensland, served in R.A.A.F Command Headquarters at Ascot. He joined the Association in 1988. Condolences have been conveyed to Tom's widow,

Sympathy has been extended to member Jean Robertson following the death of her husband DOUGLAS ROBERTSON.

C. B. MEMBERS IN BUSH FIRE EVACUATION.

January seventh and eighth were scary days for many Sydney residents. Here is Marion Winn's first hand account.

"SATURDAY, 8th. JANUARY, 1994, and many days before and after, will long be remembered in New South Wales. And the news of the fires, the tragedies and the devastation spread world-wide. On that day, in the R.S.L. Veterans' Retirement Villages complex (familiarily known as the War Vets) at Narrabeen, a northern suburb of Sydney, four members of our Association were evacuated to safe accommodation.

JOY GRANGER was close to the danger when the fire was heading up the gully bordering the North Western and Northern Units. Hoping to save it, she drenched her unit before being whisked away to stay with friends. Returning briefly that night to retrieve her car (an afterthought), she found her unit intact and secure although only a few yards from the still burning bushland.

JEAN WILLIAMS is one of the 120 resident patients in the Nursing Home which also had trees burning nearby. Here the staff and volunteers had the daunting task of evacuating all four floors - wheel chair patients, some with walking frames, some totally incapacitated. Jean walks with the aid of a frame, and with some of the others was taken to the Prince of Wales Hospital at Randwick.

For STAN and MARION WINN, our first realisation of the nearness of the flames was when we heard a terrible and sudden Whoosh-bang-snap-crackle-pop-pop-pop which came from what had been a very tall and green stand of bamboos being consumed in an explosion of flames. This was only about 100 metres from our unit and before we could say 'Central Bureau Intelligence Corps Association' we were hustled away by police officers to board a waiting bus. The Harbord Diggers Club looked after many hundreds of us, providing refuge and an evening meal. From there Stan and I were collected by friends who cared for us until the Village was re-opened on Monday.

The unexpected and unrehearsed evacuation of about 1,200 or more veterans and spouses, few of us very agile, was quite a job. On a Saturday, mark you. Staff of the Village, R.S.L. and Surf Clubs, Community Service groups too numerous to name, gave up their free time to organise the evacuation, and to care for this mass of people in need.

Many hospitals took in 'medical' cases and St. Joseph's College, Hunters Hill, provided accommodation for bus-loads of our more active residents. So many personal stories could be told - all would be of kindness and care, even of some 'fun' times experienced in dormitory living at St. Joseph's, no new life style for the ex-Service personnel.

On returning, we found that three units were uninhabitable, one being completely gutted. Many had shattered windows and

doors from the intense heat. We were very grateful to be back in our unharmed homes, and amazed at the efforts of the fire fighters to save our Village from the devastation which was so close after we had been evacuated.

Marion Winn. "

LABUAN ISLAND REVISITED

The war did not totally eclipse the positive faces of humanity. Here is a happy recollection from KEITH CAROLAN.

"It had always been a deep seated wish of mine to return to Labuan Island one day. I have never harboured the same desire in regard to New Guinea. Labuan Island, which formerly belonged to British North West Borneo, is now part of the State of Sarawak, East Malaysia.

However, my wish became a reality in early December last for my wife, Joan, and I, after visiting one of our sons and his family who are temporarily resident in Jakarta, decided to travel to Labuan Island.

As there is no direct flight between Jakarta and the Island, we had to fly to Kuala Lumpur, spend the night there and catch an early flight the following morning. I must admit to a great deal of excitement as the aircraft crossed the Malaysian Peninsular and the South China Sea before circling over Brunei Bay, thus providing an excellent view of Labuan Island. I did not realise the Bay is so enormous. In a brochure I read a few days previously, the measurements of the Island were given as 13 miles long by six miles at its widest point. It does not look anyway near this size from the air so maybe kilometres were intended.

Perhaps, before proceeding with this travelogue, it may be as well to turn the clock back and briefly account as best I can recall, and I will stand to be corrected no doubt, the time spent together on Labuan Island.

On arrival on 10 June, 1945, and after the convoy dropped anchor, the small township of Victoria Town was flattened in the bombardment before the actual landing took place. We went ashore some hours later and over the next couple of days made our way up to the airstrip. We sheltered there in a revetment for the best part of a fortnight until the Japanese at the other end of the strip were finally dislodged from their underground hideouts. Finally, we were able to set up a camp site some miles away.

It was here sometime later that a small man of Chinese appearance stepped out of the jungle one afternoon to indicate that his wife was very ill. His name was Cheng Lee, later called Jimmy by us for the sake of simplicity. As it turned out his wife had a severe attack of malaria so she was supplied with Atebrin tablets in the hope that they would do some good at that late stage.

Strange though it may seem, Jimmy lived with his wife and five

young children in a small clearing a few hundred yards through the jungle and until his appearance, we were unaware of their existence. The eldest daughter had been married the year before at the age of sixteen years to James Liew who spoke English and had been a teacher at the Government English School on the Island before the war, a position he resumed in 1946.

We became good friends with Cheng Lee and, whilst waiting to return home after the war, we made a practice of taking the children to the pictures whenever possible. Cheng Lee took us on many outings around the Island to obtain fruit etc.

Cheng Lee and his wife have been deceased for many years. However, Ron Warlow and I have kept in touch with James Liew on and off over the intervening years. James and his wife had 12 children two of whom are now deceased.

On arrival at the airport terminal, I had no trouble recognising James who incidentally turns 80 this year. With him was one of his sons, Patrick, who had taken three days off from work to drive us hither and thither.

It was somewhat of an emotional reunion after all these years. We stayed at a luxurious hotel, as good as any in the world, on the beach about one kilometre out of Victoria Town. With the help of James and Patrick, we visited all the families plus grandchildren. The small girls we once knew are now grandmothers, one of whom has 11 children.

When we started to move about, I soon realised that I had lost all sense of direction. Understandably the passage of years has brought about major changes. In the course of visiting his children, James took us to our old camp site which strangely enough has not been reclaimed by the jungle. In fact, there is a residential area close by and the second eldest girl and her family live near to where the family home once stood.

Victoria Town has retained its name and is now so large as to qualify as a city. The war cemetery is maintained in immaculate condition and if it is at all possible, looks a picture with beautiful flowering shrubs. The Island now boasts an army base, industrial area, many hotels and a large commercial centre. In fact, the Island is overripe for further development for the tourist trade. Whilst we were there, the inaugural flight of Philippine Airlines arrived from Mindanao.

The hospitality provided by James and various members of his family could not have been surpassed — it is something that Joan and I will never forget. When it came time to leave, we were given presents for Ron Warlow and ourselves by members of the family. One such gift was from a girl whom we only met about an hour before the plane departed.

As we recrossed the South China Sea, our thoughts were ones of humility together with a feeling of being very thankful as well as being fortunate in being able to revisit such wonderful people and meet their children. Those three days will live with us for the rest of our lives.

Keith Carolan."

MACARTHUR DID IT, YOU CAN TOO.

A return to the Philippines is what this is all about! Keith Carolan enjoyed his journey back to the scenes of some of his war. If you served in the Philippine Islands Bruce Cooper of the RAAF WU Association is making it easy for you to return to the scenes of your exploits next October.

Bruce and a couple of his colleagues decided that this would be a good way to mark the fiftieth anniversary of that famous "Return". With the help of some travel experts Bruce is putting together an attractive nine day tour to Leyte and Luzon. Initial cost estimates are round about \$2,000 per person, twin share, including return airfare. C.B.Assoc. members are invited to participate.

You can involve yourself in this exciting adventure by contacting Bruce Cooper at 12 Belmore Close, ROBINA, Qld. 4226 Ph (075) 931945.

IMMORTALITY FOR CENTRAL BUREAU /FIELD UNITS

This Casuarina tree is dedicated to the memory of all those who served in CENTRAL BUREAU and its FIELD UNITS - AUSTRALIAN SPECIAL WIRELESS GROUP (AIF); RAAF WIRELESS UNITS; RAN and ALLIED FORCES who were involved in signals intelligence operations against Japan during the war in the Pacific. 1942-1945.

This is the text on a plaque to be unveiled by Victorian RSL President, Bruce RUXTON OBE. in the Shrine Reserve, Melbourne at 10.30 am on 22nd. April 1994. Every C.B. Assoc. member is invited to attend the ceremony which is planned to take about 20 minutes. If you live close by, or will be visiting Melbourne about that time why not attend this historic event. Roy Ward and Geoff. Patience have been the key figures in arranging this public disclosure of Central Bureau's secret.

IN BRIEF.

John STUMM, from Jimboomba, QLD. has donated to C.B.I.C.A. an irreplaceable collection of photographs taken in the Philippines by Allied and Japanese photographers. It is planned to protect the collection in an album and to display it at our reunions. John's letter will be published in the next Newsletter.

PETER TANKARD, from Mosman NSW, has discovered an interesting listing in a catalogue from Oxford University Press. The title is CODEBREAKERS- The Inside Story of Bletchley Park; edited by F.H.Hinsley and Alan Stripp. The Times gives the book high praise. If you can locate a copy please let me know; or even better try your hand at a review for publication in Newsletter.

MARY SAXBY of Goulburn, NSW, made a contribution to the Book of Remembrance of the University of Sydney in the War of 1939-1945. When she received her copy of the book she noted an entry for ROBERT KEMP DOWNER, Signals Intelligence, Melbourne AIF. The listing refers to his membership of a group of cryptographers who were part of FRUMEL. The group included a large number of graduates from Sydney University. Perhaps this explains why Col. Sinkov felt that Australian cryptographers were inexperienced. In the early days of the war they were not any part of C.B; they were working in Fleet Radio Unit Melbourne (FRUMEL) along with Commander Nave.

Robert Downer died of illness in 1943.

Mary noted that Robert PAGE, DSO, is also listed in the book. He was a member of the Jaywick operation and was captured by the Japanese when Operation RIMAU failed. He was beheaded on 7 July 1945.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA - A VETERANS' TOUR

C.B. Assoc. member EVE SCOTT is not young any more; she served in World War II; afterwards she raised a family. Nothing remarkable so far. Back in 1987 she participated in a veterans' tour of Papua New Guinea. Her Grandfather panned for gold there in the pioneering days and her late husband Norm

served in PNG with the 2/9AGH. So it was not surprising that she was motivated to see some of the places where the war was fought. What is surprising, however, is that she has written and published a book about the tour. More particularly it is not just a travelogue but to use Eve's own words the pages are her reflections of the Second World War in the PNG area as she travelled through on her tour. Indeed they are her own special reflections and philosophies. Consider this quotation from the book. "When we turn hopelessness into possibility it alters both the possibility we see in our young people and the possibility they see in themselves".

As you read Eve's words remember that she did not have the support of a publisher and editor and literary coach and co-author and all the other people who sometimes polish an author's work. She had the courage and initiative to do it her way. And the result makes for an interesting reading experience.

Reflections Papua New Guinea 1987 Veterans' Tour by Mrs Eve Scott is published by Mrs Scott and available from the Author.

Dennis Moore
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183 Sylvania Road,
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02 524 6267.



Secretary Frank Hughes

President

Publicity Officer

MELBOURNE 1993