CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION DECEMBER 2017

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATION 2017 AT ROSEVILLE

This year due to Remembrance Day falling on a Saturday, Roseville Memorial Club held the annual Remembrance Day wreath laying ceremony on Friday 10th November in order for the school children to take part. As the students play such an integral role in proceedings, I think the club made a good decision.

It was a beautiful sunny day as 14 of our members joined together to pay our respects, along with more than 100 guests. It was heart-warming to see the respectful involvement of the school children from a wide number of primary and secondary schools. As is the case each year, there were some excellent speeches from the older students, especially Sarah Leatherbarrow from Roseville College who delivered the address, and the laying of the poppies and wreaths was very moving. A special mention to Edward Giles from Killara High School who played the Last Post and Reveille exceptionally well.

For something new this year, with the kind help of Malcolm Whitney, Vice President Roseville RSL Sub Branch, we extended invitations to all those attending the Remembrance Day ceremony to join our CB lunch following proceedings. We received a great response and 30 people sat down to lunch, including members of Roseville Memorial Club, community members, Mayor Jennifer Anderson, and of course CBers. It was wonderful that Gordon Gibson, Helen Kenny, Joy Grace and Allan Norton could attend, and I was particularly impressed and so happy to see lovely Allan who made it all the way on public transport from Jannali with a sore foot. What a feat!

It was a lovely lunch where we reflected on times passed, caught up on the latest news and happenings, and met many new people. As there was a lot of interest in CB from the non-CB lunch goers, I asked David Dufty to give a brief talk on CB and the contributions CBers have made. David did a great job and was very well received by the guests – they were fascinated and in awe at all that CB did, asking many questions which was excellent!
It was wonderful that friends old and new were able to be together on such a significant day.

END OF YEAR REFLECTION

Time is flying by and as another year is coming to an end, I want to say how much I enjoy serving our wonderful CBers. It is a pleasure and a great privilege and I have loved receiving the letters, photos and calls from members during the year. It is with great gratitude that I also acknowledge the invaluable and tireless help of our amazing and hard working committee. Thank you very much Annette, Bruce, Rob, Mark and David, and an extra special thank you again to our brilliant Publicity Officer, Helen Kenny. What a superstar!

I wish you and your families a healthy, peaceful and joyous Christmas and New Year.
I also invite anyone who is able to attend our AGM at Roseville Memorial Club on **Monday 5th February at 2.00 pm**. At the AGM we will be planning the year ahead for CB, so your input would be most welcome. I hope to see you there.
Long live CB!
Very best wishes to you all.
Katy Denis, President
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TREASURER'S REPORT

It's starting to feel like Christmas. A couple of days ago we put up the fairy lights on our front balcony and decorated the Christmas tree. It's a magical time of year!
I've had a difficult few months with some serious health problems so my apologies if I have been out of touch for a while. All is going well now though and I'm looking forward to a bit more free time as I will be taking on a much lighter workload in the coming year.

I'd like to give a warm welcome to CBICA to another ex Kana Intercept Operator, Stan Clarke who worked alongside Keith Falconner and Jack Bleakley in the various wireless units both within Australia and at Port Moresby and The Philippines. Stan is also an author and was involved in putting together a trilogy of books on military history to commemorate the 100th anniversary of WW1. (What is it about the multiple talents of these Kana Intercept Operators?) Thank you to Will Renshaw for putting us in touch with Stan. We were also fortunate to welcome Ross Gwyther, son of yet another Kana Operator, Evan Gwyther, to our Remembrance Day Lunch and to Associate Membership of CBICA! It was great to meet and talk with you in person Ross.

Our thanks also go to David Dufty for his fascinating talk about CB history at the Lunch and for his generous donation to CBICA. If you haven't yet read his book, 'The Secret Codebreakers of Central Bureau', I can heartily recommend it to you.

Now I'm going to take a leaf out of Helen's book and present you with a mystery to solve. My niece is involved with preserving and recording Indigenous culture and recently spent some time with the Yolgnd people near Batchelor in the Northern Territory. She was privileged to watch a dance ceremony commemorating the bombing of Darwin during WW2. It included the story of a warning given to their people prior to the attack by a 'White Man'. This enabled aboriginal people to leave the area and probably saved many lives.

Given the location and the nature of the warning could this person have been attached to one of the Wireless Units based near Batchelor or Coomalie Creek?? It was certainly a compassionate gesture (though possibly not authorised?)
We'd love to hear from anyone who has a viewpoint on this matter.

And a gentle reminder to everyone that membership fees for 2018 will be due soon.
I hope that you all enjoy this special time of year and that you can share it with friends and family. Wishing you all the very best for Christmas and for a healthy and happy 2018!

Annette Salmon 9 Albion Ave, Pymble NSW 2073
Hon Treasurer Phone (02) 94027907 email: annettesalmon500@yahoo.com.au

SECRETARY'S REPORT

As President Katy mentioned we certainly had an inspirational day at Roseville for Remembrance Day 2017. Lunching with guests from outside CB was a marvellous opportunity to share recollections, information and anecdotes from the "oral" CB "archives", and our guests were certainly loath to call the event to an end.

CBers then had a special meeting to approve some minor changes to the CB Constitution. All amendments were approved unanimously, and I have attached the amended paragraphs as an appendix to the edition of Newsletter. If you would like a copy of the complete constitution, {3 pages}, I will be only too happy to email the updated copy to you.

We were particularly happy to welcome Ross Gwyther, from Brisbane, to the Roseville gathering. Ross's father, Evan Gwyther, had been in 1WU and 6WU during WWII, and Ross particularly valued long conversations with Helen and David Dufty in his search for information on his father. {If you have any recollections, please let me know and I will put you in contact with Ross.}

Regretfully, I must advise that postage is becoming an increasing burden to the Association's Budget. If you would like to have Newsletter emailed instead of posted, please email me your email address, and it will be my pleasure to send Newsletter to you this way – the pictures will even be in colour. {Email: bgoudge@optusnet.com.au}

In an email to me, Ian Pfennigwerth is wondering: "Did the Association pick up the news that the Maritime Wing at the ADF School of Intelligence at Canungra in Queensland decided to name one of their conference rooms in honour of Eric Nave? The dedication occurred in late July."

Katy and I also received an interesting email from a Canadian who is researching aspects of 1CSWG – he read our Newsletter on line. I reprint an extract from his email, and if you can assist, please let me know and I will forward the information to him.

> *"To make a long story short, in the course of researching 1CSWG, in 2000-01, I came across a personal website, from Dennis Moore dedicated to "Central Bureau." A March 2000 posting made reference to two Canadian RCAF officers who served with 6 W.U. in the Philippines conducting radio telephony intercept during the Leyte Campaign. To be frank, this came as a surprise to many of us who were familiar with*

Canadian SIGINT history from WWII. Given that the two RCAF officers (Henderson and Miller) came from the U.K. with a handful of RAF Sergeants, I presume they were seconded to Bletchley Park and then deployed to Central Bureau, which led to their deployment with 6 W.U.
"While I am now starting to research the two officers, through official Ottawa channels for National Defence HQ, I was hoping that your Association may have some suggestions for references on 6W.U., and would be interested in any further references to the two Canadian Flying Officers (Henderson and Miller)."

Helen Kenny has knowledge of the unit's presence in Darwin, but any other information would be appreciated. The world of Intelligence is indeed amazing!

May I take this opportunity to wish all CBers, relatives and friends, a happy and blessed Christmas, and Best Wishes for the New Year.
Bruce Goudge
(Hon) Secretary – bgoudge@optusnet.com.au

HELEN KENNY'S REPORT

NOELINE HANSEN: (Widow of Dave) has asked me to pass on her gratitude for the sympathy extended by so many CBers on the death of their beautiful daughter Julie Taylor.

ANNIVERSARIES

In the 21st Century [we hope that there is a 22nd Century] will they be looking back to happenings of our time – 100 years past – its glories, its defeats, the blood, the pain??
1917 saw the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, the shattering of the Tsarist Empire.

In Belgium and France the battles for Bullecourt, Ypres, Messines and Passchendaele saw Australian victories and deaths of young men (still remembered) in the mud.
Away from Europe the Australian Light Horse charged Turkish positions at the Battle of Beersheba – the last cavalry charge in history.

In December, Allied Troops captured Jerusalem from from the Ottoman Empire. On December 11 General Edmund Allenby walked through the Jaffa Gate holding high regard for the various religions.

Some thought that at Christmas Christendom had returned to the Holy City. Events proved otherwise.

AROUND THE TABLE – REMEMBRANCE DAY, 2017 AT ROSEVILLE

The heading usually says "tables" – it's singular this time because on Remembrance Day this year, CBers, families and friends shared one big table.
We were "joined" for lunch by members of the Roseville Returned Servicemen's Memorial Club and District Executives.

- Noeline Hansen: representing David Hansen, with Grandson Matthew Girvan. Lovely to be here with you all.
- David Wilkins: Ku-ring-gai Historical Society

- Kathie Rieth: WWI Writers' Group
- Jennifer Anderson: Mayor, Ku-ring-gai Council
- Jacqueline Keeling: Great to see all the youth
- Katy, Sue and Gordon Gibson: What a lovely commemoration and lunch afterwards. It was wonderful seeing so many school children and having such a large number for lunch. It was a most memorable day – we loved it!
- Ross Gwyther: {From Brisbane} It's fantastic to meet the veterans themselves, and also families and children – I have become fascinated with the story as has my 30 year old son David. Will do a small story on my Dad (Evan Gwyther) for the Newsletter. Regards to all!
- Rob Moore: Another great gathering on Remembrance Day. Good to catch up with all who attended. Even more information was gathered and shared over our luncheon.
- Anon ?: What a privilege to catch up with everyone again! And to chat with other veterans and friends who joined us for the lunch. Thanks Katy for organising us all.
- Shirley Smith: Great to see the local school children participating in this remembrance. As a child during World War II it is part of my DNA. Have been a member of Red Cross since junior school days. A memorable occasion.
- Gillian Doyle, Robyn Ford and Josie Kennedy: {Arthur Phillip Chapter of the Fellowship of First Fleeters} We were honoured to be part of the gathering of Veterans and friends to honour the wonderful work of Central Bureau, and hear some of their stories.
- Helen Kenny: How welcome the Club always makes us feel. The ceremony and the luncheon. Thanks to all and a how happy it was to meet old friends again.
- Bruce Goudge: Interacting with these wonderful veterans and hearing their stories is indeed living history. This was a special Remembrance Day for us all, and we greatly enjoyed and valued hearing David Dufty's background talk on his excellent book. Mayor Jennifer Anderson also gave a short, appealing talk.

VIC LEDERER

(14th October 1914 – 22nd May 2017)

A PERSONAL TRIBUTE

It was with great sadness that I learned of dear Vic's death at the venerable age of 102.7 years – in fact from Helen Kenny, some two months after he had passed on, and I didn't find out the actual date until I saw the Canberra Times notice in the September CBICA Newsletter. As it turned out, by an extraordinary coincidence of timing I had posted a card to Vic, Tina and Irina from Paris on 22nd May.

Vic and Nobby became mates in the early 1940s, when they travelled back from the Middle East together on the 'Mendoza' after being seconded for their exceptional language skills as foundation members of Central Bureau. They met up on a number of occasions until the early 1990s, and in the following years enjoyed having a good yarn on the phone (often partly in German) about the old days. Vic was "devastated" when I rang him with the news of

Nobby's death in January 2000, and the piece he wrote for the March 2000 Newsletter shows how special that friendship was.

I was very glad to be able to meet Vic at the Australian National Gallery in Canberra in May 2000; this was our only meeting, but we maintained regular contact via phone calls and cards. Our last talk was on the afternoon of his 102nd birthday. I will never forget Vic's cheery voice, as well as his ability, even after all those decades away from Lancashire (where he was born), to reproduce a perfect Lancastrian accent when telling an amusing anecdote.

Vic was still driving and doing all the family shopping until at least his early nineties. Maintaining this independence and mobility meant a lot to him and he said he was as "happy as a sandboy".

The following words of encouragement written to his "dear old friend" Nobby in July 1999 while he was recovering from an illness perfectly sum up Vic's positive and optimistic attitude to life: "I really believe that our own mental outlook, the will not to be beaten by any particular illness or disease or accidental loss, is paramount in getting well in the end."
Not long after his 100th birthday, Vic fell badly on his right hand and had to be hospitalized. Yet he made what must have been a superhuman effort (despite the pain) to write me a note (and into the bargain apologized for his handwriting!) in early December. When I phoned him, very touched at his sheer determination, he made light of it and brushed it off.
In his final Christmas card to me, Vic wrote: "Considering I am 102, my brain is pretty good for my age but my body is not much good for walking." He added: "Be grateful for the good things life gives us." He certainly appreciated all his own good fortune throughout his exceptionally long life. And I am truly grateful to have reaped the legacy of his decades-long friendship with Nobby. I will always remember dear Vic with the deepest affection, and great admiration for such a full life so well lived.

Wendy Clarke

FAREWELL "ZERO"

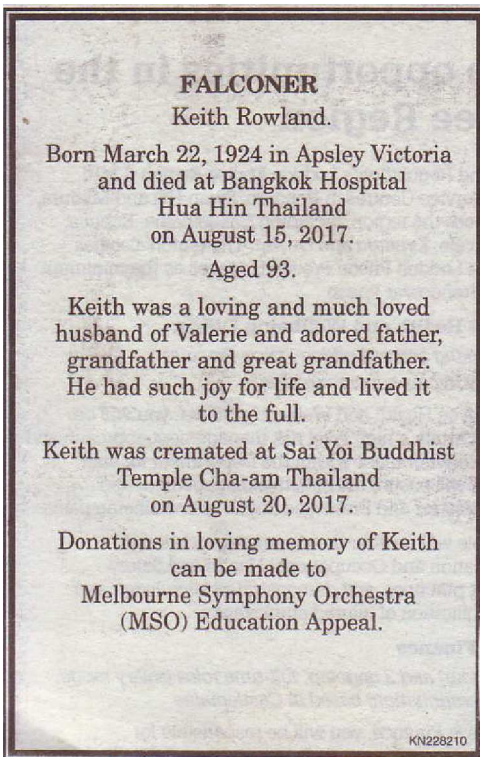
22nd March, 1924 – 15th August, 2017

KEITH FALCONER, known as "Zero" since he passed the difficult KANA tests without error has died.
He joined the RAAF when 18, and served with different wireless units. The term Zero has stuck to him throughout his life .
This is puzzling to civilians who might think that they failed if they got 0 or zero in a test, but the Kana test was very different. No errors earned top mark.
Last August, when Keith and his wife Valerie were in Thailand, Keith died in Bangkok.

> "We were married for thirty years and I was lucky to be with Keith – a truly amazing person!"
> "We have been going to Thailand for 20 years to escape the minus degree temperatures that we have during winter in Castlemaine," said Valerie. "We had five lovely weeks in warm weather before Keith got really sick. He died in a Bangkok hospital and was cremated at the temple we first found twenty years ago in the fishing village Cha-am two hours south from Bangkok."

"Keith's many friends from the village gave him a wonderful funeral and cremation. He was their 'Papa'."

These photos, kindly provided by Keith's wife Valerie, show Keith's coffin, beautifully surrounded by exquisite tropical flowers, at his funeral in Cha-am, while the second shows Keith quietly relaxing at home. Details of Keith's outstanding war time and civilian careers will be revealed in the March, 2018 edition of Newsletter.



FALCONER

Keith Rowland.

Born March 22, 1924 in Apsley Victoria
and died at Bangkok Hospital
Hua Hin Thailand
on August 15, 2017.

Aged 93.

Keith was a loving and much loved husband of Valerie and adored father, grandfather and great grandfather. He had such joy for life and lived it to the full.

Keith was cremated at Sai Yoi Buddhist Temple Cha-am Thailand
on August 20, 2017.

Donations in loving memory of Keith can be made to
Melbourne Symphony Orchestra
(MSO) Education Appeal.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Craig Collie, *Code Breakers: inside the shadow world of signals intelligence in Australia's two Bletchley Parks*. Allen & Unwin, 2017. ISBN 9781743312100. Paperback 398pp.

Indulging in a little unpardonable egotism for a moment, since I published my 2006 Eric Nave biography, possibly the first detailed account of Australian signals intelligence operations from the 1920s, a generally pleasing succession of work by other authors on the same or related subjects has emerged. Later research builds on the earlier and, in general, a more rounded and fuller account results. That's certainly the case with Craig Collie's book, which presents a highly readable and organised account of Australian signals intelligence activities in the period 1941-46.

Turning to the back of the book first (to judge the quality of the research effort the author has put into the work) it is evident that Craig not only drew on the findings of those who have gone before but also engaged in an impressive amount of his own research. This is important; derivative rehashing of known facts advances no cause and certainly not one as convoluted, and at times confusing, as this topic. There are still missing elements of information about signals intelligence during this period, but Craig has resolved or offered plausible explanations for a number of uncertainties, particularly in 'interpersonal relationships'. That said, *Code Breakers* covers ground which will be familiar to those who have consulted earlier works. Starting with the introduction of the young Australian naval officer Eric Nave to codebreaking in the British China Fleet in the 1920s and his progression in breaking ever more complex codes, Collie sketches the development of US military codebreaking efforts, distinguished from the start by rivalry between the US Army and Navy and within each service for control of signals intelligence. As British appreciation for the unique gift codebreaking conferred on strategic planning grew, inter-Service rivalry lapsed in favour of a 'combined' approach to collecting and processing intelligence from all sources. This stark contrast with US practice would later have unfortunate results for the Allies, particularly in the Southwest Pacific, where Fleet Radio Unit Melbourne (FRUMEL), the first of the Australian 'Bletchley Parks', swallowed the Australian Special Intelligence Bureau and then continued its war with the US Army.

Signals intelligence seemed to attract 'odd' people, and Collie does not hold back in exposing their idiosyncrasies and the influence these had on their work and relationships with other toilers in the field. There is a lot more about the dashing Australian Major 'Mic' Sandford and his exploits than we have previously seen, which might change the opinion of some that he was a 'chancer', too important to do some codebreaking but only too delighted to mix with senior officers in pursuing better access for Central Bureau.

Which brings us to the Bureau itself, the second Australian 'Bletchley Park'. A creation of General Douglas MacArthur when the US Navy declined to share the results of its own codebreaking with the Southwest Pacific Commander-in-Chief, this must have been one of the strangest military organisations in the Theatre. At the senior levels there wasn't much 'Australian' about it, but this changed the lower down the scale one went. There, in the headquarters in Brisbane and in the field units deployed in the north of the continent and later

in the battle zone, it was Australians doing much of the heavy lifting under US commanders. As the battlefront moved north, so did elements of Central Bureau, which was eventually re-established entirely in the Philippines, leaving behind in Melbourne a husk of its former rival FRUMEL. Craig Collie is kind to Jean Bou's book *MacArthur's Secret Bureau*, but I sense that Central Bureau survivors will be much more satisfied with his account of 'their' war. It would have been useful to have had a 'balance sheet' itemising what the Australian contribution was to the signals intelligence war in the Pacific to hammer home that it wasn't 'the Americans who broke the Japanese codes' at all. By 1945, signals intelligence had become a vast coordinated industry throughout the Allied countries and Australian efforts, initially derided and discounted by the UK and the US, were now well regarded. Certainly the Australians involved were determined that it was a capability that should be continued nationally and, preferably, in cooperation with their wartime partners in 'A New World, New Enemy' situation. In the middle of things was that old warrior Eric Nave, who did not complete his involvement in signals intelligence until 1949.

Craig Collie concludes his story by drawing attention to two facts. First, there are still gaps in our knowledge where official records have disappeared to be replaced by personal accounts, a situation no historian feels comfortable with. Unfortunately, there's not much hope that the gaps will be filled. The second is that very few of the people involved in Australia's signals intelligence war were ever recognised by their government for their contribution to the Allied victory. Unfortunately, I misled him in my account by stating that Eric Nave received an OBE. That's what Eric claimed, but later research shows this to be wrong. (He did later receive a Civil List OBE for unrelated work). It occurred to me that in this age where a lack of wartime awards has been given reconsideration it might be time to redress that omission for Central Bureau and FRUMEL people.

Ian Pfennigwerth

Code Breakers by Craig Collie **(Allen & Unwin) RRP $33.**

When, several years ago, Craig Colllie mentioned that he planned to write a book about Central Bureau, we said, "At last." Our hopes had risen and had been dashed several times. Now that the book is here, we find that he has produced a thrillingly and painstakingly researched history of signals intelligence, from the antecedents, through the toils of war, to the new world, the new enemy, and the new face of signals intelligence.

National and other archives, books, monographs and articles, newspaper and magazine articles, websites and blogs were combed for even the most minute piece of information. Several of the dwindling number of serving members were interviewed.

The result is a gripping tale of the men and women who peopled "the shadow world of signals intelligence". What could easily have become a dreary, dry-as-dust account of events is, instead, full of real people.

Veterans will renew old acquaintances, as well as resolving some of the mysteries that had baffled them for decades. New readers will satisfy much of the pent-up curiosity evident in the general population.

Forty-five pages of end-notes, including index, will enable readers, so inclined, to pursue further study. Media interest has ensured wide and well deserved publicity.
Robert Brown

DAVID DUFTY AWARD

The Secret Code-Breakers of Central Bureau wins the 2017 Nib Military History Prize

It is with great pleasure CB advises that David Dufty has received a prestigious award for his recent publication on CB – viz "The Secret Codebreakers of Central Bureau".
Two pictures from the presentation, and the citation are reproduced for your information and interest.

David Dufty's book about Australian code breakers in the second world war, The Secret Code Breakers of Central Bureau, has won the 2017 Nib Military History Prize, worth $3000.

Dufty's book is a rich historical account of this secret and little-understood side of the war, interwoven with lively personalities and personal stories of the dedicated men and women who significantly influenced the course of the Pacific War.

When accepting his prize, Dufty said that meeting and interviewing the living veterans of Central Bureau had a profound impact on him personally. "I was determined to help give these amazing Australians the recognition they always deserved but never received. "

CBICA CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

Members unanimously passed amendments to the CBICA Construction at a meeting on Friday, 10th November at Roseville Memorial Club. If you would like a copy of the full Constitution, please forward me (bgoudge@optusnet.com.au) your email address for a copy. The paragraphs, as amended, are shown below:-

4. MEMBERSHIP

(b) Associate Members:

(i) Associate Membership may be granted at the discretion of the Association and on a simple majority vote at any General Meeting dealing with the matter, to Australian or Allied ex Army, Navy and Air Force personnel directly concerned with Intelligence activities during and post the Second World War.

(ii) May include persons attached to Intelligence Units but not forming part or strength of such Units.

(iii) May include wives, husbands, near relatives and direct descendants.

(iv) May include persons who have a bona fide interest – e.g. researchers.

7. PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS

(a) The President or, in his absence, a Vice-President, shall act as Chairman at all meetings of the Association. If neither is present, those Members at the Meeting shall elect a Chairman from amongst Members present.

(b) Quorum: The quorum of the meeting shall be five financial Members.

(c) Voting: Members shall be entitled to one vote on any matter at a Meeting, and in the event of an equality of votes the matter shall be deemed to be lost.

8. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Quorum for meetings of the Executive Committee shall be four.

10. BANKING

Monies, the property of the Association, shall be banked with one of the recognised trading banks as determined by the Executive Committee and shall be in the form of a Society cheque account.

Any two of the following Executive Officers namely - the President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and the Publicity Officer, shall be empowered to draw and sign cheques and perform on-line transactions as necessary upon the Association's Account.

12. AUDITORS

The Executive Committee shall ensure that books of accounts are audited annually, or as soon as possible afterwards. An accredited Auditor shall be appointed annually provided always that such Auditor is not a member of the Executive Committee.

H.K.'s SEASON'S GREETINGS

Long ago, my kindly skin specialist, who'd been treating me for psoriasis and other rashes said, "Go home my dear. Stay out of the sun and read the Meditations of Marcus Aurelius." I went home, kept in the shade and read the works of this Roman emperor, a stoic born in A.D. 121. I'm reading him to this day. This is a sample: "*When you would have a cordial for your spirits, think of the good qualities of your friends: this one's capability, that one's self-effacement, another's generosity and so forth*."
"There is no surer remedy for dejection than to see examples of the different virtues displayed in the characters of those around." He is writing about friends. We would say mates.

Love and best wishes to all my CB mates this Christmas. I'm scratching no longer.

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