

Bulletin Board Bulletin Board Bulletin Board

Film crew looking for Kokoda Veterans

Author Paul Ham, consultant to a major TV documentary on the Kokoda Campaign — *Kokoda* — is looking for veterans of the battles along the Kokoda Track (or Trail!) and on the beaches of Gona, Buna and Sanananda, between July 1942 and January 1943.

The ABC, in collaboration with Screen Australia, has commissioned two one-hour programs to go to air in April 2010. The film, based on his book *Kokoda*, has been fully approved by the ABC and contracts have been agreed with the production company, Pericles Films.

Mr Ham says the producer, Andrew Wiseman, of Pericles Films, and the director, Don Featherstone, have already contacted several veterans from the 39th Battalion (Militia), and 21st Brigade AIF (2/14, 2/16 and 2/27 Battalions).

“So we have covered the soldiers’ experiences of the withdrawal over the Owen Stanley mountains,” he said recently.

“We are now searching for veterans of the 16th Brigade AIF (2/1st, 2/2nd and 2/3rd Battalions), who fought the counter-offensive over the Owen Stanleys and who were critical in destroy-

ing the Japanese at Gona and Sanananda; and the 18th Brigade (2/10th, 2/11th and 2/12th Bns) who fought the Japanese at Milne Bay and Buna — indeed, inflicting the first land defeat on the Japanese Army at Milne Bay.”

This film will tell the story of the extraordinary performance of Australia’s armed forces during the worst of the Pacific War, when the Japanese Empire was at its most powerful, and when Australia was the only free nation in Asia.

If you have information or advice, call Mr Ham on **0413 041580** or **02 9388 9421**.

Longreach Reunion

55AESS/EWPS will be holding its biannual reunion at Longreach, Queensland, on August 16–20, 2009.

For more details contact:
Sel Christie 0409 374 638 or
Frank Bates 0400 556 804 or
John Jesser 07 3356 9297

2CARU (RAAF) Reunion

A 50th Anniversary reunion to celebrate the formation of 2 Control and Reporting Unit, RAAF Lee Point will be held in Darwin from 18 to 26 September 2009.

Details on www.angelfire.com.au or email 2caruaware@gmail.com or phone **08 89451547**

Radio Ron calling

Ron Metcalfe’s radio show, focusing on veterans, is on in the ACT region on the first Thursday of every month at 9.15am and then again at 8pm on Radio One (1120 AM Band)

Were you a member of the occupying forces in Japan after WWII?

The BCOF Executive Council of Australia is seeking information about how many BCOF veterans are still alive in its battle to have their service recognised as “qualifying” service. This appeal is being made throughout Australia to get a more accurate estimate of the number of veterans still around.

Please supply your name, service number, unit and time of service in the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces stationed in Japan from 1945 to 1952?

Would you also indicate whether you have the Gold Card, White Card or other DVA entitlement?

Would you please send the information to:

The National Secretary, BCOF Executive Council, Mr Ron Orwin, 2 Finch Court Loganlea, Queensland, 4131 — or email him at orwinsigs113@hotmail.com

If you know of a BCOF Veteran, please ask him to make contact with us on this matter.

Make it known in your sub-branch that this information is required urgently.

We do not want your address but, if you wish to provide it so that you may be able to keep in touch with a local or state association of BCOF veterans, that will be welcome.

It is the statistics that we need, and need urgently.

For and on behalf of the National Executive Secretary, Reverend Robert J. Walker, Honorary Secretary, BCOF National Association, Queensland, 27/152 Haig Street, Brassall, Queensland 4305.

Switching bank accounts has got easier

When it comes to your personal finances, equipping yourself with the right tools is very important.

If you complete all your banking online at present with many direct debits, you might choose a different bank account from that of someone who prefers face-to-face service and a cheque book.

There are several reasons why you might want to move your everyday bank account (or “transaction account”) from one bank, building society or credit union to another. You might find an account that offers extra benefits and/or charges lower fees or you may want a better interest rate.

Easier than you think

The Government has introduced new measures to make it easier for consumers to switch bank accounts. Under these measures, your present and future providers will help you make the switch.

Shop around

New transaction accounts are introduced to the market every day. It pays to shop around to see if there’s another account that better suits your needs. Compare the fees and features of your present account with other products on the market. If you find one that’s better, switching may be worth it.

It may be important for you that your account has an easy-to-use interface for online banking, especially if you’re on base or deployed much of the time. Whatever your priority, ask around

By **Delia Rickard, Senior Executive Leader for Consumers and Retail Investors, Australian Securities and Investments Commission**



and find out who can provide the best service for you.

There is also a number of web sites that offer more detailed information to help you compare accounts and other financial products including:

www.cannex.com.au
www.infochoice.com.au and
www.ratecity.com.au.

Changing automatic payments

If you find an account that offers more of what you want at the right price, you’ll need to update your automatic payments, including:

Direct debits: for example, payments for insurance policies, phones, loans and utilities;

Direct credit: for example, your pay, government benefit payments or tax refunds.

\$21m needed for two new memorials in Canberra

The Government is encouraging all Australians to support the construction of two memorials to honour the more than 1.4 million Australian service men and women who served in the World Wars I and II.

The memorials will cost an estimated \$21 million. The Australian Government has committed \$250,000 to the project.

The Memorials Development Committee will focus on raising enough money to see the project through to completion.

The memorials will be built on the northern shore of Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, at the foot of Anzac Parade, to frame the view of the Australian War Memorial.

The winning designs are symbolic of the spirit, sacrifice and commitment of Australians in both World Wars.

The memorials will honour more than 100,000 Australians who died in the two wars and will be a permanent legacy to those who served or supported the war effort, both at home and overseas.

Brisbane firm Richard Kirk Architects Pty Ltd is the winner of the design competition for two new national monuments. The winning design was selected from 43 entries in an international competition conducted in 2008.

For details on how to make a donation, visit www.mdc.org.au

Bulletin Board is where you can tell your mates about reunion plans