

26 Battalion Association
Victorian Branch

26 AUST. INF. BN. (AIF) "NEVER UNPREPARED"

NEWSLETTER

November 2007

ISSUE 11



CROWD SUPPORT ANZAC DAY 2007 Melbourne

*The respectful spectators lining St Kilda Rd applaud and thank
the diggers marching towards the Shrine of Remembrance*

WELCOME TO NEWSLETTER No. 11

ANZAC DAY '07 REPORT

By COLIN BLOCK

WELCOME to the latest issue of 26 Battalion Reunion Association, Victorian Branch newsletter.

This newsletter is written, edited, printed and posted out by Norman Turrell and the layout designed by Colin Block.

Gentlemen, your efforts are very much appreciated by all concerned.

If any readers of our newsletters have any items, which they consider may be of merit for inclusion in these newsletters and of interest to our readers, would they please send them to Norman Turrell.

-Bob Gaudion, President

ALTHOUGH many people were praying for drought-breaking rain, attendees of the ANZAC Day ceremonies in Melbourne were grateful that at least one more day was just as beautiful and as sunny as Season had offered in the weeks prior.

The number of marchers in our Battalion was down on previous

years, in keeping with the request from Anzac House to limit the numbers of family members. In all, twenty six people were representing 26 Battalion during the parade and a further fourteen joined us for the reunion lunch afterwards. This year, thirteen servicemen from the Battalion (Victorian contingent) either marched or were represented by their family members.

The live ABC TV broadcast covering the March gave quite a long commentary about **Len Dawson** and 26 Battalion. Len had the honour of leading our Battalion and did a magnificent job in marching the full distance as did our other returned servicemen **Bert Barker**, **John Collins**, **Norm Donaldson**, **Ken MacKellin** and **Norm Turrell**. **Bob Gaudion** enjoyed a ride in a classic luxury sports

Jaguar immediately behind our Battalion.

The banner holders this year were **David Stevens** and **Peter Barker**.

A rather large respectful crowd lined St Kilda Rd and they applauded and thanked all the diggers as they marched past. **Vin Frawley** was waiting at the 26 Battalion commemorative tree giving plenty of support to our marchers.

The **Schwinghammer** family, descendants of **Captain Percy Cherry**, VC, MC, showed their respect for the supreme sacrifice that the original WWI soldiers from 26 Battalion had made.

The reunion meeting held in Bell's Hotel followed the Ode and remembrance of the fallen. Norm Turrell announced at the meeting that since the Queensland contingent is no longer getting together, that

Bob Gaudion has accepted the position of **President** of the 26 Battalion Association and a younger member, **Jeff Collings**, will be **Vice President**. Members congratulated the new office bearers.

Veteran **Ken Flake-more** joined his other former returned servicemen at the hotel to catch up with old times.

In **Gavin Block's** absence, members showed their appreciation of his efforts in preparing for this year's reunion march and lunch. Due to Gavin's work commitments he was overseas, but his brother **Dean Block** cheerfully stepped in to assist with transport arrangements.

During the meeting Bob Gaudion announced that Gavin had tendered his resignation as **Victorian Representative**; however **Jeff Collings** agreed to take on these additional duties.



Bob Gaudion accompanied by assistant Dean Block during the 2007 ANZAC Day March

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By BOB GAUDION

ON OCTOBER 8, in the company of Norman Turrell, I attended the meeting of Kindred Organizations and Unit Associations at Anzac House, Collins Street, Melbourne, where it was very interesting for me to learn about some of the decision making concerning the Melbourne Anzac Day march.

Some of the initiatives which came out of that meeting were as follows:

(1) That the length of the March for all be unchanged with more provision for Veterans (especially W11) in vehicles.

(2) Descendants marching behind WW1 banners to be retained.

(3) That the hymn *God Save the Queen* be retained until further notice.

(4) Unit associations are asked to ensure that descendants under the age of 12 years are not permitted to join the March and that all descendants are suitably attired.

(5) Wherever possible it is desirable that descendants who are marching are wearing their relatives medals on the right side of their chest.

On the back page is a list of former 26 Battalion members who have recently passed away.

Of the 3,300 veterans who served in 26 Battalion, it is estimated only about 200 still survive.

If you are contemplating contacting any of these surviving

members, it is suggested you do so in the near future.

Regardless of this inevitability, I am very confident of the future of our Association because of the group of dedicated, younger relatives of members who are prepared

to apply themselves to the continued operation of the organization.

My best wishes to all and

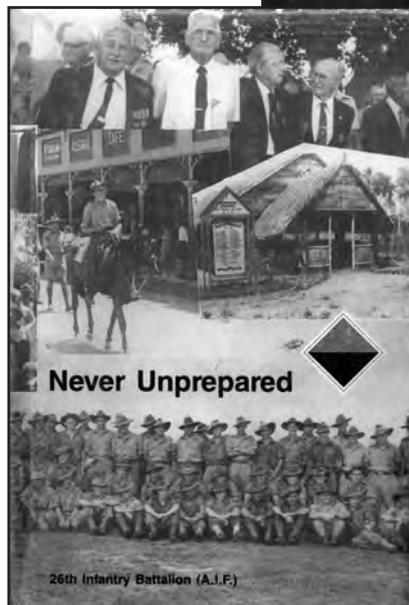
Kindest regards
Bob Gaudion

HONOUR ROLL AND HISTORY BOOK LAUNCH IN 1992



Left: Major Alec Stewart and Maj. Graham Searles MC unveiling the Honour Roll in the Hall of Memories, Brisbane 16 Sept 1992

Right: Presentation of the History Book with Bob Gaudion, Norman Turrell and Ray Block in Rockhampton. May 1992



Left: The history book:- NEVER UNPREPARED A HISTORY OF THE 26TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION (AIF) 1939-1946 A.N. TURRELL

OUR VERY OWN WEBSITE

ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce that 26 Battalion Association now has its own Web site.

You can see it at

<http://26bn.org>

(Note: You can put *www* in front, or just type it as is into the address bar of your Internet Browser)

If the address does not work the first time, check whether your Browser has not put the *www* in automatically. If it has, remove it and try again.

You can also Google it as "26 Battalion Association" Include the quotation marks to keep the words together and make it quicker to find.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Contact our Web Master at WebMaster26Bn@gmail.com if you have anything that is specifically relevant to 26 Battalion.

Please forward your digital photos or text to our Web Master, Colin Block or

arrange for scanning of old photos so they can be sent via email. Colin can only handle electronic versions. Before forwarding any information be sure it is clear of any copyright restrictions.

Prior to the information being posted onto the Internet site, our Web Master will assess whether it is suitable e.g.

- it is not too dark
- it is not too small;
- it is relevant to 26 Bn;
- there is sufficient space on the site.

There may be some weeks delay before the information is posted on the Web site.

If you come across any spelling mistakes, incorrect names or misinformation or wrong hyperlinks please let us know so that we can correct it promptly.

TECHNOBABLE

About the Web Host

To minimize costs, we are using a free web host service but our contract with them requires us to allow their advertising. Our experience with the Host so

far, is that the advertising has been restricted to self promotion.

This free site is probably located in USA but it could be anywhere in the world. Sometimes it is slow to download but if it becomes unsuitable for any reason in the future, we will need to consider changing to a new web address and web host. This may require a financial outlay to get a reliable service.

Some statistics about the 26th Battalion Association web site

When the site was launched it had a total of 52 web pages that used approximately 6MB in its 230 computer files and would take about 16 minutes to download on a dial-up service (if all the pages could be downloaded at once).

Web site counter

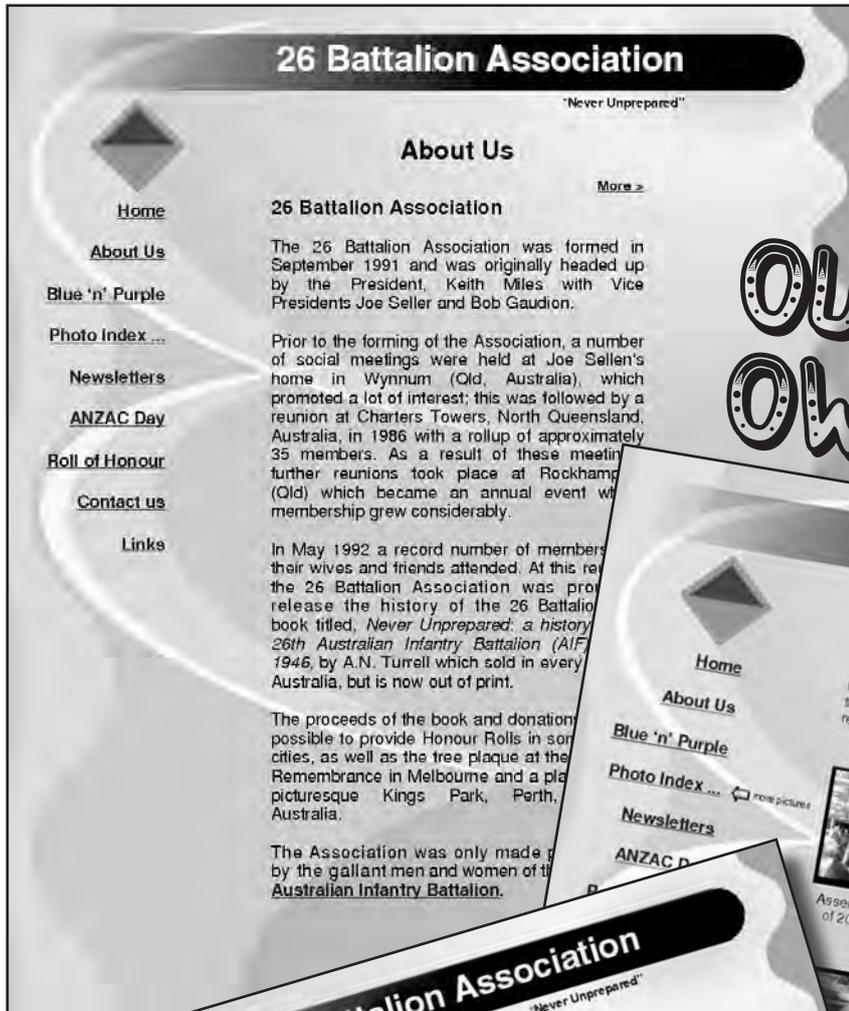
The *Home* page has a counter to count the number of hits to this page. This will help us ascertain whether the site is being used. You may need to allow *cookies* and *active content* in your Browser for it to tick over, however the site will still work if they are blocked but it will not register as a hit.

ENJOY

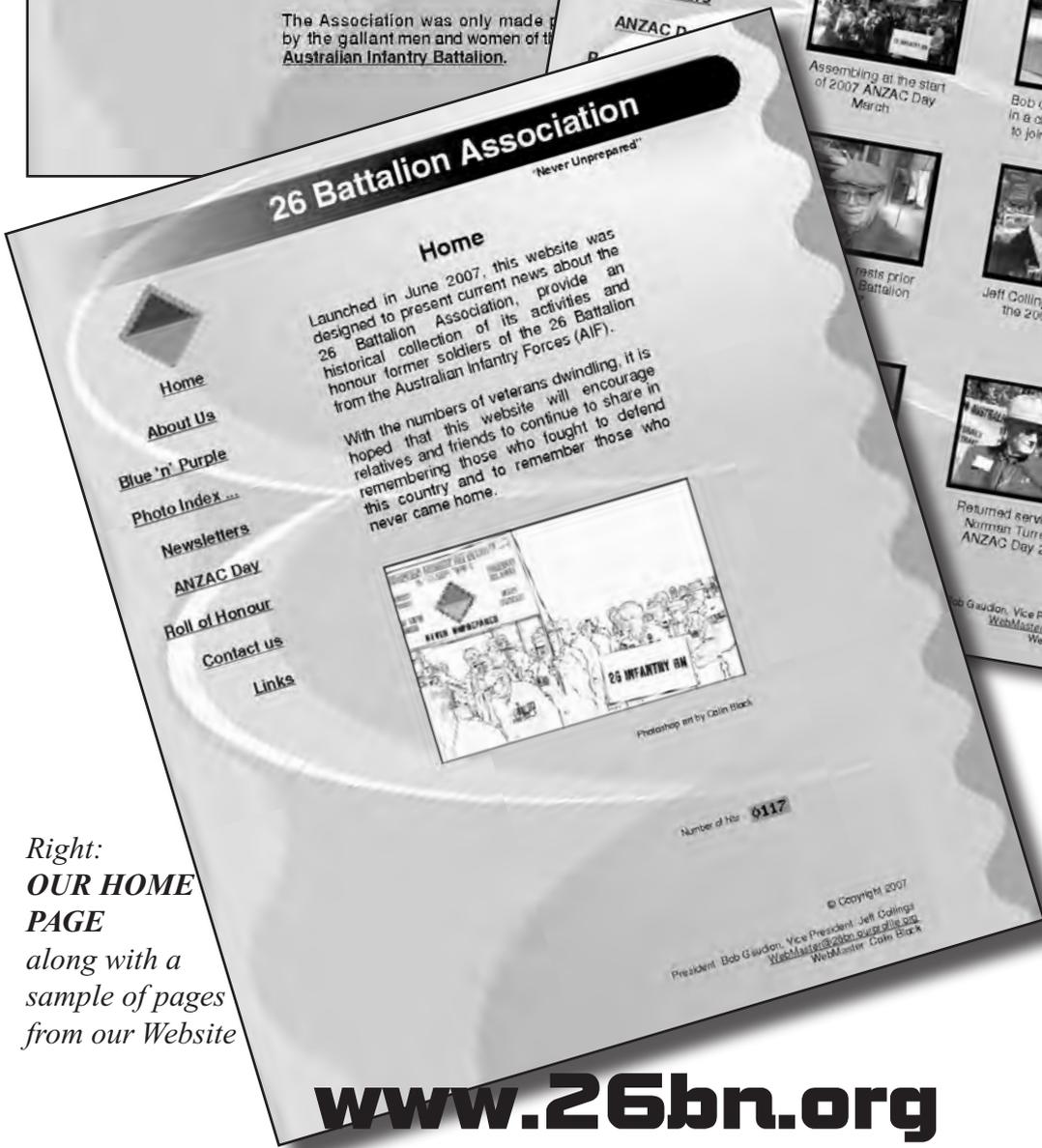
Enjoy surfing the new 26 Battalion Association web site.

www.26bn.org





OUR VERY OWN WEBSITE



Right: **OUR HOME PAGE** along with a sample of pages from our Website

PASSING OF AN ORIGINAL MEMBER OF 26 BATTALION

IT IS with regret we learn of the passing of Bob Shellard at Benalla on 23 July 07. Bob Joined 26 Battalion in 1939 as a signals operator.

In 1942 he was transferred to Torres Strait Signals and promoted to Sergeant. In 1943 he was again transferred to Australian Signals as a reinforcement with the rank of Lieutenant and became a signals officer in the AIF.

After the war ended Bob retained his interest in

the Army and on 12 January 1955 he was promoted to Captain and joined 8/7 Battalion where he served until 30 July 1958.

Now promoted to Major his final posting on 18 November 1958 was to DAA/QMG HQ 6 Brigade.

Bob served his country for almost 20 years and will be remembered for his cheery and friendly manner.

His wife Shelley resides at their family home in Benalla.



Above:

Bob Shellard was President of the Benalla Bowls Club between 2002 and 2004

V LE

John Chilcott
 George Scrase
 George McManus
 Les Lillywhite
 Ted Roulent
 George Maxwell
 Bob Shellard
 Gordon McPherson
 Blake Bosworth
 Syd Bennett
 Aethur Thompson
 Rob Mason