



From our President's desk



Hello again,

Hope everyone has had a pleasant wind down over Christmas from the busy-ness of 2014. And now we are in the year of the March.

The pace is picking up; there is significantly more interest this year. Several meetings have been undertaken with different communities already. We are especially pleased to advise that local town Kangaroo March Committees have been formed or are in the process of being formed in many places along the route. From near the start of March, there is a seasoned Junee and District Committee, another at Cootamundra, a Wallendbeen Committee actively planning, a Harden-Murrumburrah group, Goulburn-Mulwaree are very active, Wingello, Bundanoon, Exeter, Canyonleigh, and Hill Top all taking positive steps. All groups are contriving to make our re-enactment a special experience for the residents of the towns and villages along the March.

Since the last edition, we've participated in the Southern Highlands Berrima Australia Day Grand Parade. Steve and Faith, our Banner carriers, ready for the start of the parade



We are also pleased to report on the success of another grant from one of the Federal Electorates that has just been announced. Stephen Jones, MP for Throsby has advised that his electorate's grant of \$22,751 has been approved, for which we are most grateful. We await those funds with eagerness.

Graham Brown

President, Kangaroo March Centenary Re-enactment Association

► TV producer, David Reyne's Australian Geographic Adventures:

contacted us to do a mini-March to promote the real thing starting on 5th Sept in Wagga Wagga. The test run was filmed in one of the southern towns of the Southern Highlands and the Bundanoon community got right behind it. The Pipe Band marched and played, residents of Bundanoon rummaged in the old trunks and dressed in clothes of the 1915 period and marched thru the town and the television company crew filmed. And our choir, the girls dressed in the nurses uniforms of WW1, were lead by Music Director OJ.



RSL Rural Commemorative Youth Choir with our Music Director



The Bundanoon mini-March



A man, his dogs and a century old car in our mini-March at Bundanoon.



► Fitness

Speaking of marching, we are reminded of the need for those of us planning to step it out in September – October to continue the fitness regime. We’ve been speaking with hardened walkers who remind us that blisters still trouble them from time to time. So it behoves us all to get into stride on a regular basis, easier now that the weather is cooling off.

Refresh your mind by looking back over Phil’s Fit Tips in previous issues of the Bulletin to be found on our website www.kangaroomarch.org.au and clicking on Bulletins.

► Relations

A few more descendants have made contact with us, and we are delighted to make their acquaintance as well as increase our knowledge. So far, most have kindly provided us with war record information and other personal data and memorabilia. Some hope to participate in some way in the March itself.

If you know of someone who is descended from a WWI veteran along the route of the March who just might have been a Kangaroo, do please let us know at stories@kangaroomarch.org.au

► Vexillology

quiz time – yes, study of flags.

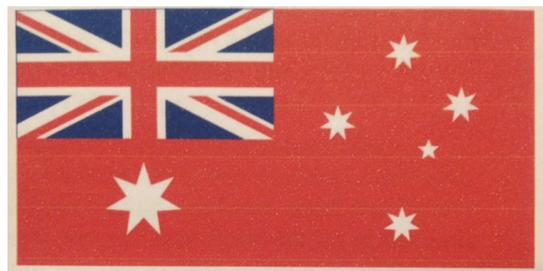
We’ve been asked several times whenever we’ve been out and about with our Banner, why the standard we carry is red, not blue.

Our research indicates that the Wagga Wagga Kangaroos carried their Banner and may have used either a Union Flag (Jack) or the red ensign or both. Photographic evidence is inconclusive.

Certainly, as the recruits were welcomed into various towns along the route the Union Jack is often visible as is the Australian ensign.

At the time of the March, “British Admiralty regulations regarding flags did not apply to the use of flags on land, and the practice developed of using the Australian red ensign when private citizens wanted to use a local flag in addition to the Union Jack.

Whilst this flag was the correct flag for use by privately owned vessels in Australia, its use on land was also regarded as normal.” The use of the Australian blue ensign was not legally restricted, but it was discouraged by the Federal Government. [We acknowledge gratefully the information kindly provided by Flags Australia.]



We have been fortunate enough to have the use of a very old red ensign from the personal effects of a World War I veteran. It is not known if this went overseas with him, but he had always kept it and his family has kindly loaned it to us for the re-enactment, and any lead up events. Our sincere gratitude to Jim Kimball.

Kangaroo March Centenary Re-enactment Association Inc. Committee

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And from the archives...

*Courtesy of Sherry Morris,
author of The Kangaroo March*

WENTY BRADNEY

Wentworth Edward Bradney (known as 'Wenty') was aged 32 when he participated in the Kangaroo March. He was a handsome man with dark complexion, brown eyes, dark hair and a thick moustache. He was of solid build, 5'8" (1.73m) in height and weighing 11 stone 12 lbs (75.3kgs). His younger brother Donald had already enlisted in July that year while his older brother John enlisted a month after him.

The boys' parents, John and Catherine Bradney, had been farmers at Bombola in the 1890s and later at Kittagora near Coolamon. There were eleven children. Their mother Catherine died about 1908 and the family split into two groups within a few years. By 1915 Wentworth, his twin sister Mabel and brother John had left the family farm and were residing in Thorne Street, Wagga Wagga.

While Wenty was training at Goulburn Camp after the March with the rest of the Kangaroos, his father also died.

Wenty embarked on the Ceramic on 14 April 1916 with most of the Kangaroos but transferred from the 55th Battalion to the 54th in Egypt and travelled directly to France.

His baptism of fire came on 19 July 1916 in the attack on Fromelles. This was the first major battle on the western front involving Australian soldiers, a feint which proved to be an unmitigated disaster. The 54th Battalion continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for the following two months and then spent a freezing winter manning the trenches in the Somme Valley.

In August 1917, after twelve months at the front, Wentworth was given a holiday. A few weeks later, on 24 September 1917, he was killed outright when a shell exploded at battalion headquarters near Bullecourt. He had been standing at the door of a pillbox when the shell exploded.



**DO YOU HAVE A STORY FOR THE BULLETIN?
IF SO, PLEASE EMAIL**

stories@kangaroomarch.org.au

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From The Project tab, click on either 'Get Involved' or
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& click 'submit'.