



The Wandong History Group Inc. Quarterly Newsletter FREE with your What 's News

# “WHAT’S OLD”

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## FROM THE EDITOR

It was great to see a big turn out for ANZAC Day this is such an important day for us in Wandong, Heathcote Junction and it's gratifying to see so many people taking the time to stop and remember those whose lives were so changed by the wars. A massive thanks to those who help put our service together, especially Major Tony Gill (Rtd), Tony goes out of his way to make sure our service is dignified and runs smoothly, he also has two other services to carry out on the day, so a huge workload and I know his day starts early. Also Peter Dore and Denis Krake, both returned servicemen, they help us every year and we owe them a great debt of gratitude, not just for what they do now but what they have done as soldiers. Mark next years service in your diaries now, we are planning something big.



We are also planning an open day in October to coincide with History week, exactly what that will be, is not decided yet, but again we will be showcasing our history. Many towns such as ours have never had a history as exciting as we have, our aim is to ensure we pass on as much of the local knowledge as we can.

Editor: Karen Christensen

## THE TOLL OF WAR

( A poem from a WW2 soldier)

### THE FUZZY WUZZY ANGELS

*Many a mother in Australia, when the busy day is done,  
Sends a prayer to the Almighty for the keeping of her son,  
Asking that an angel guide him and bring him back,  
Now we see our prayers are answered, on the Owen Stanley Track  
For they haven't any halos, only holes slashed in their ears,  
And their faces worked with tattoos and scratch pins in their ears,  
Bringing back the badly wounded just as steady as a hearse,  
Using leaves to keep the rain off, and as gently as a nurse,  
Slow and gently in their paces on that awful mountain track,  
And the look upon their faces, makes us think that Christ was back.  
Not a move to hurt the wounded, they treat him like a saint,  
Tis a picture worth recording, that an artist has yet to paint.  
Many a lad will see his mother, and husbands see their wives,  
Just because a Fuzzy Wuzzy carried them, to save their lives;  
From mortar or machine gun fire, or chance surprise attack,  
To the safety and the care of doctors, at the bottom of the track.  
May the mothers of Australia when they offer up a prayer,  
Mention these important angels with the Fuzzy Wuzzy hair.*

## Vale - Juanita Rodriguez

The History Group, along with local residents were saddened to hear of the passing of an old Wandong resident. Juanita Rodriguez came to Wandong in 1962 with husband Tony and despite not being able to speak English, became part of the local town life. Tony and Juanita raised two girls Marito and Olga who both attended Wandong Primary School. A memory I have of them at Wandong is her wonderful cooking, as kids we would hang around hoping Juanita would make us some chips, cooked in olive oil, something we had never experienced before, she never disappointed us and was a wonderfully kind and loving person. After retiring Tony and Juanita purchased a property in Wallan and farmed there. Tony's death was a great blow to Juanita and she passed away on the 21st March after suffering from dementia. We pass on our condolences to the family, a truly wonderful woman who made her mark on Wandong.