

# ANZAC DAY 2018

Commemorative Australian Rules Football Match



VS



## SATURDAY 21ST APRIL

1.15pm @ Visuttharangsi School, Kanchanaburi

11.30am Auskick <> All welcome <> Free entry <> Food & Drinks available



THE CLUBHOUSE  
SPORTS BAR & GRILL



[www.thailand-tigers.com](http://www.thailand-tigers.com) | [thailandtigers@gmail.com](mailto:thailandtigers@gmail.com)

This year will be the 15th ANZAC Commemorative Match for the Thailand Tigers, and sees us welcoming the reigning Indochina Cup champions Vietnam. In what will also be a first, the Tigers will also be travelling to Vietnam for a return match the week after.

Apart from the love of footy, the ANZAC match is a special event for the Thailand Tigers for many reasons, most significantly playing football in honour of all those who have served for our country, especially the POWs who worked on the Thai-Burma railway at Kanchanaburi during World War 2. We have included in this program biographies of some of these great men and encourage you to read their stories.

We hope you enjoy your weekend, and importantly, take time to reflect and pay respect to all those who have fought for our great country.

#### Past ANZAC Results

2004 - Thailand Tigers 13.6 def Malaysia Warriors 5.4  
2005 - Bedford's Blues 10.7 def Henderson's Reds 10.3  
2006 - Thailand Tigers 9.7 drew with Hong Kong Dragons 8.13  
2007 - Bali Geckos 9.6 def Thailand Tigers 3.5  
2008 - Thailand Tigers 13.15 def Jakarta Bintangas 7.8  
2009 - Thailand Tigers 13.13 def Vietnam Swans 2.2  
2010 - Thailand Tigers 6.10 def Laos Elephants 6.7  
2011 - Thailand Tigers 11.5 def China Reds 6.6  
2012 - Thailand Tigers 9.7 def Cambodia Eagles 8.8  
2013 - Tigers Blues 14.8.92 def Tigers Gold 8.9.57  
2014 - Thailand Tigers 18.15.123 def. Pakistan Markhors 3.0.18  
2015 - Thailand Tigers 22.11.143 def. Myanmar Fighting Cocks: 2.1.13  
2016 - Malaysia Warriors 19.14.128 d Thailand Tigers 8.5.53  
2017 - Thailand Tigers 10.9.69 d Singapore Wombats 7.8.50

## **Itinerary**

### **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

- 6.30pm Vans departing for Tigers
- 12pm Van departing from Don Muang (Vietnam team)
- 11pm Vans departing from Don Muang (Vietnam team)

### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April**

- 10.00am Depart for Bridge & Cemetery then to Visut School (Vietnam)
- 11.00am Depart for Visuttharangsi School (Tigers)
- 11.30am Auskick
- 1.00pm Welcome Speech / National Anthems (Thailand & Australia)
- 1.15pm International Match: Thailand Tigers vs Vietnam Swans
- 4.00pm Return to Royal River Kwai Resort for post-match beers and swim

### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

- 6am Vans depart for Wakeboarding (Vietnam Swans)
- 9am / 1pm Vans depart for Don Muang Bangkok (Vietnam Swans)
- 12.00pm Vans depart for Bangkok (Tigers)

#### **Please note:**


- If required there will be songthaews to the ground for those who have not booked a seat on the mini-vans (a small cost will be incurred)
- Seats on the vans are reserved for those who have paid for transport for the weekend. If you want to travel with the group on the vans you will need to rely on free seats being available.

## Hotel

Royal River Kwai Resort & Spa (<http://www.royalriverkwairesort.com/>)




## Venue




**Thailand Tigers Australian Football Club**

**Visuttharangsi School**

32 Saeng Chu To Rd, Thalo, Tha Muang,  
Kanchanaburi, Thailand




Ford Dealership



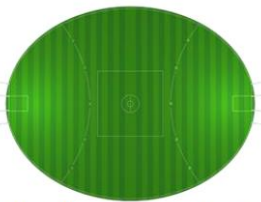
To Kanchanaburi

To Bangkok


School entrance / exit



Kanchanaburi Govt. Offices



**Visuttharangsi School**





## Australian Government

### Department of Veterans' Affairs

#### **Milton 'Snow' Fairclough**

Milton Fairclough was a "jack of all trades" working in country areas of Western Australia prior to the war. He was with a group of country boys who were members of the Militia in the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse and enlisted in the AIF after the outbreak of war. They joined the all-Western Australian **2/3<sup>rd</sup> Machine Gun Battalion**.

In 1940 the battalion sailed from Fremantle. The convoy called at Colombo and disembarked at Port Tewfik on the Suez Canal, later staying at Palestine and in Tel Aviv. They saw action in Syria and later went to Mrouj, near Beirut. In February 1942, they travelled on the Orcades via Durban, South Africa, to Oosthaven in South Sumatra. They only disembarked for a short time before they went back aboard and sailed to Batavia. (Jakarta). By road they went to Bandoeng. On 9<sup>th</sup> March 1942, the Dutch surrendered (including the Australians). After nearly a year in Bandoeng they went to Makasura before being shipped to Changi Prison on Singapore. In January 1943, they went by train to Thailand and to the Konyu River Camp, the Hintok River Camp and the Hintok Road Camp. He worked on the section of the line between Konyu and Compressor Cuttings on bridge work. By the completion of the railway his health was bad and when his group went to Tamuang he was unfit and went on to the Nakon Pathom Hospital. On maintenance work, he remained in Thailand until Victory in the Pacific. Snow has been back to Thailand on eleven occasions.

Snow Fairclough was renowned for his "mateship", resourcefulness and his compassion for his fellow prisoners. He spent countless hours foraging for little extras for any of his mates who were ill and on light rations. He would stay with men in their dying hours maintaining the tradition of "nobody must die alone". Even when the dreaded cholera epidemic raged he still nursed cholera patients without any regard for his own health. In post war years, he has always been prepared to visit his mates when they are ill or close to death. He has played a large part in keeping active the 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Association. Snow passed away on 1 October 2016.

#### **Neil MacPherson, OAM.**

Trained with 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion Senior Cadets in 1938-39. Enlisted in 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF in September 1941. Trained at Northam Training Camp. November 1941 to the Middle East on HMT Queen Mary. To Palestine for training. Transferred from 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Training Battalion to 2/2 Pioneer Battalion. January 1942 left Middle East on HMT Orcades with 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Machine Gun Battalion and others to Dutch East Indies. Full Pioneer Battalion landed at Tanjong Priok and saw action against the Japanese before capture. Transferred to Singapore on Kendon Maru and to Rangoon, Burma, on Mayabashi Maru in October 1942.

To Moulmein on Yamagata Maru. Joined Williams Force. Arrived Thanbyuzayat late October 1942 and became part of 3 Group at Tanyin 35 kilo camp. Commenced laying the rails & sleepers from the Burma end through to where the two ends joined at Konkoita on 17 October 1943. In January 1944 evacuated to Tamarkan camp near Kanchanaburi. In June 1944 joined a group which travelled by train to Singapore. Spent time on "Jeep Island" off the coast where a graving dock was built.

In December 1944, Neil was one of the group which left Singapore for Japan on the Awa Maru and arrived at Moji on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1945 before traveling by train to Camp 24 at Senryu 60 kilometres from Nagasaki where he worked in the coal mine for eight months. On 16<sup>th</sup> August, 1945, the prisoners were freed. Left Senryu on 14<sup>th</sup> September for Nagasaki where they boarded ships en route to Okinawa. They travelled by B24 Liberator bombers to Luzon Island and by C45 Transports to Manila. By aircraft carrier HMS Formidable to Sydney and train to Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. Final discharge was on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1946. Awarded OAM in 2008.



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### **Walter Holding OAM 2/4 Machine Gun Battalion**

Walter Holding was born at Bassendean, Western Australia on August 13, 1919. At 17yrs of age he commenced work with the Western Australian Government Railways. In June 1940, he enlisted in the Militia in the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment. He later enlisted in the AIF and in January 1941 was posted to the 2/4<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Battalion and to Singapore. The Battalion was captured in Singapore and incarcerated in Selarang Barracks. In April 1943 Walter Holding was part of "F" Force, which was dispatched to Thailand to work on the Burma Thailand railway. "F" Force was made up of 7,000 Allied prisoners, 3,666 Australians and 3,334 British. After a five-day journey by train from Singapore to Non Pladuk in Thailand in cramped steal rice wagons the force was compelled to march 290 kilometers to railway construction camps at Sonkurai, near the border with Burma. The majority of the journey was on unsealed jungle tracks.

Sonkurai No. 2 Camp is infamous as one of the worst camps on the Burma Thailand Railway. By the end of June only 700 men from what was now a workforce of only 5,000 prisoners were at work on a daily basis, half were fit enough for heavy laboring jobs. It is estimated that about 1,350 had failed to complete the march to their appointed camps either having fallen sick, died or been ambushed by Thai bandits. Members of "F" Force suffered more than most prisoners on the Burma Thailand Railway because, apart from the diseases, inhumane and brutal treatment, starvation and terrible conditions, the Force was under the Japanese Singapore administration and not the Japanese Railway Engineers and they worked predominately beyond where supplies could be made via the River Kwai.

In November 1943, the remnants of "F" Force began the train journey south via Kanchanaburi to Singapore. A further 186 men of "F" Force died at Kanchanaburi. In total, 28% of "F" Force died on the railway. Walter Holding spent the remainder of his incarceration at Selarang Barracks and the Changi Gaol Camp on Singapore before liberation and discharge on 29<sup>th</sup> November 1945. He returned to work with the State railways in Western Australia but suffered from after effects of his POW experience and spent long periods in Hollywood Repatriation General Hospital, being too sick to work for 8 months of the next two years. Walter Holding commenced an active association with the Returned and Services League. he was active in the Narrogin sub-branch of the RSL. His late wife Wynn became the President of the Women's Auxiliary.

Like most ex-Prisoners of War, Walter Holding confined any discussions and recollections of the Prison of War experience to fellow ex PoWs, usually in the confines of RSL clubs, but when it was decided in 2002 to form the Burma Thailand Railway Memorial Association, dedicated to ensure that the story of the "Railway" would not be forgotten, he became an active member. In addition to his direct involvement in the Association, Walter (with his late wife Wynn) Holding established a trust fund to sponsor a service cadet from one of the cadet units in Mandurah to be part of Quiet Lion Tours. Walter Holding has returned to Thailand on a number of occasions and has had many members of his family participating in the tours. Wally passed away on 14 November 2013.



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**JACK THOMAS**

**Modbury, South Australia**

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Jack Thomas was born in Broken Hill on 4 November 1919. Jack worked as a grocer's assistant before enlisting in Broken Hill in June 1940. During the war, he served with the 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion as a gun number and later as a range-finder. Jack served initially in Syria before moving to Java. Reflecting on his overseas service, Jack recalls that he was 'moved mostly by the history and geography of the places visited'. He also remembers fondly the life-long friends he made. He remembers being drawn to one friend in particular, whom he looked up to as a mentor, though he was quite unlike Jack. During the war, they were separated and though they never met again Jack named one of his sons after this mate.

It was in Java in March 1942 that Jack became a prisoner of war. As a POW Jack was initially interned in Java, before moving to Singapore for a brief time between January and February 1943. It was in February 1943 that Jack was moved to Thailand, where he worked on the Burma–Thailand Railway. In July 1944 Jack was taken to Japan, where he spent the remainder of his time as a prisoner. After the war, Jack resumed his duties at his father's grocery store, which he later managed until the business became untenable and he was forced to walk away. Offered a job as the Secretary/Manager of the Broken Hill Club, Jack prospered until his retirement in 1983. He now lives in Adelaide and still meets up once a month with 'the handful of those of us still left, and members of their respective families'. He is the proud caretaker of the battalion flag, which members of his battalion use 'to see each other off respectfully when the time comes'.

**GORDON JAMIESON**

**Robina, Queensland**

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Gordon Jamieson was just nineteen years old when he enlisted in July 1940. He served with the 2/26th Australian Infantry Battalion in Malaya and Singapore. The 2/26th were noted for their high morale when fighting successful rearguard actions as Japanese forces approached Singapore. Gordon was taken prisoner on 15 February, when the garrison surrendered. He was held at Changi until April 1943, when he was transferred to Songkuri in Thailand, near the border with Burma. He returned to Singapore in December 1943 and remained there until liberated in September 1945.

Of his time working on the Burma–Thailand Railway, Gordon remembers the kindness and generosity of spirit of his fellow prisoners. He recalls that if a man lost his mate another 'would adopt you'. If he was sent to work in a group of men not from his battalion, he always found that they welcomed him. This mateship lasted throughout the post-war years. Gordon also recalls that in spite of the suffering endured during his time as a prisoner, there were instances of dark humour. These moments of laughter helped him get through particularly difficult times.

Discharged in January 1946, Gordon returned to his pre-war position with the Federal Public Service working in the War Service Homes Commission. In June 1948, he married a girl from a Quaker village with whom he shared an interest in pacifism. Gordon has been an active member of the ex-service community, working for a time as Secretary of the Ex-POW Reparations Committee. In this capacity, he worked towards a project to establish an International Tropical Health and Medical Research Centre to be funded by the Japanese Government. The project unfortunately never came to fruition, but Gordon retains the documentation.



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**ROBERT GOODWIN, OAM**  
**Highfields, Queensland**

Robert (Bob) Goodwin was enlisted in July 1940 with the 2/10th Field Regiment. He served as survey officer of the regiment in Malaya and Singapore. In the days before the fall of Singapore, the 2/10th Field Regiment was engaged in the north-west of Singapore supporting the 22nd Brigade. By 10 February the regiment had withdrawn to Singapore Harbour. The regiment ceased firing on 14 February. Bob was taken prisoner on 15 February 1942. He transferred to Thailand in May 1943, working on the Burma–Thailand Railway, including at Hellfire Pass, and was sent back to Singapore in December 1943. He was liberated in September 1945 and discharged in December 1945.

Bob remembers working on the 'bloody cutting', which was not called Hellfire Pass at the time. He recalls lying on bamboo alongside twelve to fourteen men to keep off the wet ground, and the deep blackness of the night as all forms of lighting had been confiscated by the Japanese guards. After the war, Bob qualified in medicine, working as a GP for fifteen years, later specialising as a cardiologist working for 25 years as officer in charge of the Heart Foundation. In 1993, in recognition of this service, Bob was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia. In 2009, the Heart Foundation also recognised Bob's service and awarded him the Heart Foundation award for 'Keeping Australian Hearts Beating for Fifty Years'. Committed to the commemoration of Australian military history, Bob has published three books documenting his own experiences and other stories of the war.

**ERNIE REDMAN, OAM**  
**Esperance & Goldfields, WA**

(excerpt taken from <https://open.abc.net.au/explore/19249>)

**It was an honour to know you Ernie** By [Wendy Duncan](#) (Published 25 Apr 2012.)

This ANZAC day I would like to pay tribute to a quiet hero who was well known in the Goldfields and Esperance, Ernest Frank Redman, known by his mates as 'Digger'. Ernie was a wonderful man, well respected and loved by all who knew him. We didn't know much of Ernie's life before he came to the West, but we knew he had fought in the war due to his nickname, 'Digger'. Apparently, he got that name because he would often say, "How about you do this for an old Digger?" The name stuck, yet he'd never talk about his war experiences. It was only in the 1990's when he went to some Ex-POW Association reunions and attention was paid to the achievements of Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop (the 'Quiet Lion'), that Ernie began to talk about the fact that he had been imprisoned on the Thai-Burma Railway with that legendary man.

The Quiet Lion Tours began and Pam suggested he join in, but at that stage he refused. Since 1997, the annual Quiet Lion Tour has involved ex POWs travelling back to Thailand with high school students, to pass on their dying stories. These were inspirational Aussie men who represented honour, courage, compassion and devotion to duty in the face of absolute horror and hopelessness. From 2000 until he took ill just before the 2009 tour, Ernie returned every year bar one, taking 72 students in all to relive his experiences as a prisoner of the Japanese. Ernie passed away on 29 April, 2009, just after ANZAC Day. Every year since then Esperance kids have continued to honour his legacy in visiting the Thai Burma Railway and marking ANZAC Day with a dawn service in Hellfire Pass. Ernie was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 2006 for his work on the Quiet Lion Tour. In 2008 he received the "True Blue" Award Pride of Australia Medal.





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**BILL HASKELL, OAM**  
**Fremantle, WA**

(taken from <http://www.btrma.org.au/?p=384>), Posted on [May 17, 2011](#)

Bill Haskell was born at Fremantle on 9th May 1920 and died just short of his 91st birthday on the first of May 2011. At 19yrs he joined the 16th Battalion Cameron Highlanders and in November of 1940, after enlisting in the AIF, he went to the Woodside Camp in South Australia until in April 1941 he sailed away the 2/3 rd Machine Gun Battalion. He was on the Isle de France in a convoy which called at Colombo and terminated at Port Tewfik on the Suez Canal, later serving in Palestine and in Tel Aviv. The 2/3 rd Machine Gun Battalion then saw action in Syria and later were in Mrouj, near Beirut. In February 1942, they traveled on the RMS Orcades to Oosthaven in South Sumatra. In January 1943, they went by train to Thailand to the Konyu River Camp, the Hintok River Camp and the Hintok Road Camp. Conditions in the camps on the Railway were dreadful; starvation, ill-treatment, brutality, disease and no clothing, medical supplies or even the most basic of personal requirements. Only mateship and valiant Doctors and medical staff got some of them through. Every disease known to man was prevalent with cholera, dysentery, malaria, beri-beri, vitaminosis and lethal ulcerated legs rife. Their work was moving dirt, timber, rock and other materials by hand and carving through solid rock with only hand-tools. Terrible accidents were frequent.

After the construction phase of the railway, Bill travelled from Tamuang Camp to Singapore in the primitive rail-cars before sailing, on 4th July 1944, with 3,000 other prisoners, to Japan in one of the "Hell" ships, the Byoki Maru. The voyage lasted ten weeks. Bill spent almost 12 months at the Ohama Coal Mine under the Sea of Japan. Conditions there were again dreadful with the heat replaced by the cold and having to work in narrow tunnels under the sea. Food was as scarce, as it had been in Thailand, due to the overall conditions in Japan. Liberation was wonderful but it took Bill and his mates a long time to get home by various ships. They travelled via Osaka to the port at Wakayama where Bill was overawed by the number of naval ships at anchor. It was at Wakayama that Bill first heard of the Atomic bomb.

Bill returned to Hellfire Pass with Weary Dunlop on a special tour via Jakarta and Singapore in 1985 and again in 1987. He has returned to the area many times since with Quiet Lion Tours and other special visits such as Keith Flanagan's Loi Kratong and Khun Kanit Wanachote's OAM award. One special visit was after our "Grand Tour" in 2009 when we visited Jack Chalker and many other friends in England. Bill's joy at meeting his friends and touring Somerset, Devon, Dorset, Cornwall and Hampshire was palpable.

Bill Haskell joined with Keith Flanagan in convincing Weary Dunlop to publish his war diaries and they then worked together to keep the story of Weary Dunlop and the Burma Thailand Railway alive. They commenced the Quiet Lion Tours to Thailand for Anzac Day and were later co-founders of the Burma Thailand Railway Memorial Association. The BTRMA has now conducted 18 Quiet Lion Tours. There have been in excess of 1,300 people taken on Quiet Lion Tours including over 300 High School Students and other juniors. Bill, together with Keith Flanagan and Ken Wood, played a major part in establishing the Boon Pong-Weary Dunlop Medical Foundation which has been responsible for training in excess of 60 young Thai Doctors in specialist surgical fields under a mentoring scheme.

In the Australia Day Honours List for 2004 Bill Haskell, together with his long-time friend Keith Flanagan, was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for "Service to the community, particularly through establishing public educational tours to the Burma Thailand Railway". Bill died at home of 1st May 2011.

# MATES POEM

I've traveled down some dusty roads,  
Both crooked tracks and straight,  
And I have learnt life's noblest creed  
Summed up in one word, "Mate".

I'm thinkin' back across the years,  
A thing I do of late  
And these words stick between me ears  
"You gotta have a mate."

Someone who'll take you as you are  
Regardless of your state  
And stand as firm as Ayers Rock  
Because he is your mate.

Me mind goes back to '43  
To slavery and hate  
When man's one chance to stay alive  
Depended on his mate.

With bamboo for a billy-can  
And bamboo for a plate,  
A bamboo paradise for bugs  
Was bed for me and mate.

You'd slip and slither through the mud  
And curse your rotten fate  
But then you'd hear a quiet word  
"Don't drop your bundle, mate."

And though it's all so long ago  
This truth I have to state,  
A man don't know what lonely means  
'til he has lost his mate.

If there's a life that follers this,  
If there's a Golden Gate,  
The welcome that I wanna hear  
Is just "Goodonya mate".

And so to all who ask us why  
We keep these special dates,  
Like ANZAC Day, I tell 'em "Why?!"  
We're thinkin' of our mates."

And when I've left the driver's seat  
And 'anded in me plates  
I'll tell Ol' Peter at the door  
"I've come to join me mates."

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