



INFANTRYMAN

The Journal of the RAR Association SA
Keeping the Spirit Alive

April 2013



Good hearing for taxing submission

The Minister for Defence Science and Personnel recently referred an Inquiry into the Care of Australian Defence Force Personnel Wounded and Injured on Operations to the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

The Defence Sub-Committee of the JSCFADT held a Public Hearing in Adelaide on Friday 8 February 2013. The Sub Committee was chaired by Senator Mark Furner, (Qld); Senator David Fawcett, (SA) and Mr Nick Champion MP member for Wakefield.

Submissions for this very important issue were received from Prof Sandy McFarlane AO, Director, Centre for Traumatic Stress Studies, University of Adelaide; Dr Glenn Edwards, author of Beyond Dark Clouds; Associate Professor Susan Neuhaus CSC, Chair of the Board of the Repatriation Hospital; Associate Professor Robert Atkinson AM RFD, Clinical Associate Professor, Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Adelaide and Sgt Craig Hansen from the 7th Battalion RAR and myself where we were representing the Veterans Advisory Committee and the Minister for Veterans Affairs in SA The Hon Jack Snelling. Our submission through the VAC to this committee was very direct and simple. It was to change the Tax Act as it affects wounded soldiers

Continued page 2

DRINKS WITH THE GOVERNOR. His Excellency the Governor, Kevin Scarce, hosted a cocktail party at Government House on December 6 in appreciation of the contribution to the ex-service community made by the project Trojan's Trek under the guidance of Moose Dunlop, OAM. The Royal Australian Regiment Association Patron Laurie Lewis and his wife Di, left, and Secretary Robert Whinnen and his wife Linda, were among 50 supporters of Trojan's Trek who attended the event.

More photos Page 6 by Bruce Forster

ANZAC DAY 2013

Order of March & Assembly Area

Please note new Assembly Area and earlier Step Off time as WW 2 Units diminish due to age and passing on.

Assemble: 0930 hrs Western side of Pulteney Street- South from North Terrace to Rundle Mall.

Step Off: 1015 hrs

Queries: Rod Graham 0427 977 145 or Greg Dwiar 0412 644 749 or Battalion representatives - see page 16

Full details Page 3

From the Command Post

Anzac Day is almost upon us and hopefully all of the Battalion Associations will have a maximum turn out. The young diggers from 7 RAR last year just blew us (and the Anzac Committee) away with their attendance and enthusiasm but, most importantly, their standard of dress where a coat and tie was de rigueur and they looked a million dollars.

Hopefully we, the older generation, will look as well turned out and impressive. For those unable to march or struggling to make the distance, the Anzac Committee has put on a vehicle pod for us to accommodate those individuals but you need to **warn?** in for a seat, which will be highlighted elsewhere in this edition.

Last year some self-centred individuals commandeered a seat to the detriment of some who had booked. That is unacceptable and has all of the hall marks of what we used to call a "Jack attitude", which has no place in the culture or the traditions of the infantryman and the Regiment in particular.

Book your seat, otherwise you will not be permitted to grab a seat because our appointed Duty RP, **Neil Nichols**, will have a list of people booked and anyone else will need to deal with Neil. He's a mountain of a man and I wouldn't argue with him!



Anzac Day is a THE special day in our commemorative calendar.

Although it's a great time to catch up with mates and to reminisce and relate incidents and experiences which are getting bigger and bolder, it's really a time to think about that mate who you knew well who made the ultimate sacrifice.

It's somewhat surreal when you think about them, where the image in your mind's eye is still that fresh faced young kid who in your mind will always be young.

When that bugle blows and you reflect and see that young face it's really quite emotional and sad. That young face never had the opportunity to live life to the fullest, get married or into a relationship, have children, grandchildren or to share what we have shared every Anzac Day since our operational service.

It's great to share the day with so many wonderful blokes we have all served with and I am sure there is that fresh faced young kid looking down approvingly.

Lest we forget

**Michael von Berg MC
President**



A good hearing

Continued from page 1

Sgt Hansen is one soldier who has been badly affected. He approached us through the support of his previous Commanding Officer, which, after some consultation and planning, set the wheels turning with the issue was raised at the VAC level, where the unfairness and rectifying the current tax system as it affects wounded soldiers was unanimously support by the VAC and the Minister and went forward as a submission to the Federal Senate Committee.

Both Sgt Hansen and I had never appeared before a Senate Hearing before and had visions of one of those Standing Committee Senate hearings so often televised from the US where you see witnesses "grilled" relentlessly, sometimes giving the impression it's going to turn to blows. So we were rather relieved when we both appeared together to speak to our submission in what was formal but almost a relaxed fireside chat. We were most impressed in the bipartisan and genuine concerns shown by the committee members to our submission but, more importantly, the members drilled right down to some very relevant issues as they affect wounded soldiers. Sgt Hansen, who had been seriously wounded, was an excellent corroborating witness to support the submission as and his family had previously been disadvantaged through the unfair tax treatment. A major part of our submission was a Private Tax Ruling achieved by Sgt Hansen which is a precedent for the other 300 individuals wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan.

We were both delighted how our submission was received and hopefully now a recommendation will go forward to assist all of the other soldiers wounded in both theatres.

To help the reader understand what this is all about it's best to describe it in a simple infantryman manner:

- Soldier is wounded some 2 months into a 9-month tour of duty.

- Soldier discharged from hospital to rehabilitation and all of his tax benefits and accrued war service leave ceases.
- His mates all continuing doing an outstanding job and thankfully, luckily, fortunately avoid being wounded continue appropriately in accordance with the Act to receive all tax benefits until back home in Australia.
- Our argument is: Why should the wounded soldier be penalised for being wounded? It fails any fairness test and he should be subject to the same tax considerations until his unit is returned to Australia.

We can't put it any simpler than that. We have put our case and I am thankful to Chief of Army for permitting Sgt Hansen, as a serving soldier, to appear before the Committee. Without him our submission would have lacked the raw power and emotion and be seen as hearsay, anecdotal or perhaps fluffy evidence.

Sgt Hansen conducted himself extremely well and it's sad to see an excellent NCO no longer able to serve in his chosen profession because of the wounds inflicted.

We are also very thankful to the VAC and the Minister where the issue, which had been tested at national level, became an interdepartmental and political portfolio football going nowhere.

The matter has now been heard, is recorded in Hansard and should be addressed as a whole of Parliament rather than a Government of the day issue. After all it's the Parliament that sent us to war!

We now sit back and await an outcome. If not favourable the ATO should prepare itself for some 300 private tax ruling considerations, which in terms of the affected soldiers and their mental state and the public purse, is not the desired route.

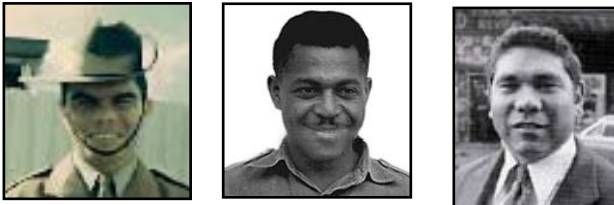
Hopefully there is a positive outcome for those who have given so much.

Michael von Berg MC

Indigenous Brothers in Arms

I was recently driving from Melbourne on Remembrance Day where, as a part of that commemoration, the ABC aired a program on the contribution of indigenous Australians and their contributions over many wars. I was aware that Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islands soldiers had fought in every war but had no idea that they also fought in the Boer War. Considering Aborigines could not vote and were not permitted on licensed premises, you need to consider what was driving these proud individuals to fight for a country that didn't properly recognise them and the many who didn't return.

When you're driving for some eight hours there is plenty of time for reflection and the program led me to think of all of the indigenous soldiers I had the pleasure of serving with. The more I thought about the various individuals and their characteristics and foibles, I realised I have always looked at these blokes as soldiers first and their indigenous background secondary, if indeed at all. I remember so many and in every instance recall that not only were they good blokes but bloody good soldiers.



From left: Ray Orchard, Norm Womal and Zeke Mundine. Photos by courtesy of 5 RAR Association webmaster.

Ray Orchard, a section commander in C Coy 5 RAR first tour, was an exceptional soldier and one of the nicest blokes you could ever meet. **"Darky" Wright**, a Corporal in 1 RAR first tour, was as tough as teak and a damn fine rugby half. **Zeke Mundine**, a wonderful NCO and one of the real characters of 5RAR, was badly wounded in Vietnam during his second tour of duty but he continued on to serve in the Battalion as a QM. Lance Corporal **Billy Rhodes**, a West Australian who went to Vietnam with 1 RAR on their first tour, always had a twinkle in his eye and really enjoyed a good laugh. **Ron Harris**, ex 1RAR and then SASR who was a fine SAS trooper, was killed in Vietnam.

Stuey Yow Yeh was originally 1 RAR but also served with 6RAR in Vietnam on their first tour. When on the rugby pitch as a winger, this mountain of a man frightened the daylights out of his own players as much as the opposition. He went on to play professional rugby league, as did his son and now his grandson playing for the Broncos.

Massa Clarke, an absolute legend who has fought in every war since World War 2 and a professional Lance Corporal Ex 1 RAR who served in Vietnam with 7Pit, C Coy, 7 RAR where on Operation Coburg as a great natural tracker, found the enemy and many of them, in what was to be one of 7RAR's major battles.

Norm Womal, MiD a great section commander and leader who was mortally wounded in the Nui Thi Vai Mountains in October 1966, was one of nature's gentlemen. Had he lived and gone on with his Army career he could have achieved anything.

I am sure there are so many of us who share the same values, beliefs and experiences and its quite telling where

something as innocuous as an ABC program sets you up to think of some individual you have served with as being indigenous first and soldier second yet when you served it was very much the reverse.

I am just waiting for some self-righteous individual with no idea of what we went through together to suggest the basis of this missive is somewhat racist when it's quite obviously the opposite. What these people don't get is that all soldiers are colour blind! You don't look for colour. You just look for that mate to protect your back or to get you out when you're in a bit of a tight spot. Within a military fighting environment the only colour is that of your battalion colours and lanyard and the respect for all who wear it.

Society as a whole owes an enormous debt to the many thousands of indigenous soldiers who fought and/or died for this country and I am immensely proud in my own small way to have served with some of the greatest soldiers and characters I have been privileged to know.

Michael von Berg MC

ANZAC Day 2013

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GROUP 10 (A)

[Payneham City Concert Band](#)

RAR Association State President & party

1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment

2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment

Vehicle Transport (Group 10 A - Pod 1)

All seeking transport should contact Rod or Greg ASAP.

3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment

4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment

[South Australian Police Pipes & Drums](#)

5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment

6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment

7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment

8th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment

9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment

[City of Elizabeth Pipe Band](#)

Special Air Service Regiment

RAR (SA) Association ANZAC Day Reunion

Time: 1200 hrs

Where: Lion Hotel front bar and courtyard

cnr Jerrold and Melbourne Streets,
Lower North Adelaide.

Counter meals available

Discounted beer and wine prices

Entertainment – courtesy Southern Districts Pipe and Drum band.

Membership Renewals: Before the March and at the Lion Hotel.

Your club, your input, you're welcome



Above: RAR SA Association Patron Laurie Lewis, AM, addresses party goers at the Club's Christmas party.



Youngest Christmas party guest Kiara 7, with her parents Simon Babji and Stacey Lewis.

Right below from left: Tay Nguyen, Past President Vietnamese Veterans Association; Linda Whinnen; Oanh Nguyen, City of Charles Sturt councillor for Woodville Ward; and Thu Do, Vietnamese Veterans Association member and President of the Alliance of Democracy Freedom for Vietnam.

Right centre: RARA Welfare Officer Lyn Fisher with Major Lachlan McKenna, HQ 9BDE Brigade, and David Stacey, President 9 RAR SA, Below: Festive food for, from left, Kay Crooks, Linda Whinnen, Ann Wyatt and Anne Currie.



Right: David Stacey, centre, discusses the memorial wall project with Trevor Treloar, Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, left, and Paul Sykes, Ministerial Liaison Officer Veterans SA and Defence Industries Office of the Hon Jack Snelling MP.



You've got to be there to win the members' draw

No member has yet won the **Members' Participation Draw** which takes place each Friday after the Ode. Results of draws:

Week 1: \$150, member 31, Colin Campbell.
Week 2: \$175.00 242 Andrew King .
Week 3: \$200, 372 Linda Whinnen.
Week 4: \$225, 275 Paul Mulrayne.
Week 5: \$250, 264 David Hartcher.
Week 6: \$275, 275, Cameron Hatcher.
Week 7: \$300, 241, Robin Jagger.
Week 8: \$325, 437, Roger Wedding.
Week 9: \$350, 353 , Joe Daros.
Week 10: \$375, 101, Bob Hnatyszyn.
If the member not present when his/her number is drawn, the Jackpot increases by \$25 each week. If reaches \$500 it will not be increased but drawn weekly till a member whose number is drawn is present.

Ladies Night Bingo

On ladies nights, usually the second Friday of the month, again after the Ode, we are running a free bingo session. A card with three lines, and play three single line games, is provided. The winner of a line will receive a bar ticket which can be used at any time for a standard drink of their choice. If members wish, we can occasionally run a more organised game of bingo with purchased cards and cash prizes.

Lucky Door Prize

On random occasions we will conduct a Lucky Door Prize. At some time before the Ode, those in attendance, whether members or not, will receive a ticket. After the Ode, a draw will take place and the winner will receive either a bottle of wine or beer of their choice.

Balaklava Veterans Race Day Wednesday 10 April 2013 at 11am at Balaklava Racecourse

The Race Day is open to the public, ex-service and defence personnel, family and friends. Admission of \$20 gives entry to the racecourse, lunch and a chance in the major raffle draw. Tickets are available at TPI House, RSL State Branch, participating RSL Sub-Branches and the Balaklava Racing Club.

The meeting is in support of Veterans so get some friends together and make it a great day.

Catherine May, Physiotherapist

9 Crossley Street, Erindale

Appointments:

8364 2859 or 0417 851 708

DVA approved

No gap for DVA clients

Full range of physio services available

~Hydrotherapy (heated pool)

~ Massage ~ Gym ~ Home visits

Your club, your input, you're welcome



Cadre staff 10/27 RSAR visited the RARA HQ in February. They are seen with President Michael von Berg (from left) Warrant Officer Class Two Craig Thomson, served in East Timor and Afghanistan with both the NZ Army and with the Australian Army; Warrant Officer Class Two Darryl Miller, served in East Timor and Iraq; Regimental Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer Class One Adrian Hodges, served in Somalia, East Timor, Sinai with the Multinational Force Observers, Solomon Islands and Afghanistan; and Adjutant Captain James Hill has served in the Solomon Islands.

Author's fascinating tale told at Friday get-together

One of the most interesting speakers members have had the privilege of listening to on a Friday evening was Dr **Glen Edwards**, who spoke about his life and his second book *Beyond Dark Clouds* at the club on March 8.

President **Michael von Berg**, a long time friend of Dr Edwards, introduced the author and his wife, **Jackie**.

Beyond Dark Clouds is about men and women Vietnam veterans, their spouses and children from Australia, America and New Zealand.

Their stories have been constructed from hundreds of hours of interviews over several decades. The author, a Vietnam veteran, has brought together the stories to give a comprehensive, candid insight into two generations of families before during and after the Vietnam War.

Glen left school at 14 and later served in the Australian Army as a National Serviceman, and then as a Regular Soldier, serving as a medic in Vietnam.

After leaving the Army, he graduated from Sturt College of Advanced Education in SA, Flinders University, University of West Florida, USA, and Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine, Japan.

Glen has a distinguished record in research, clinical work, lecturing and helping individuals who have PTSD and learning disabilities, which he experienced himself.

He has worked in the USA and with the World Health Organization in China, Japan and the Philippines.




Author Dr Glen Edwards displays his new book "Beyond Dark Clouds" to (from left) Broken Hill visitors Laurie and Lynette Edwards and RARA President Michael von Berg.

He is a trauma specialist certified by the International Certification Board of Trauma Counsellors. He was awarded a certificate of appreciation from the World Society of Victimology and the Tokiwa University for his contribution to the study of victimology and victim assistance.

At the invitation of the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Glen provided services on several Indian reservations in South Dakota and was adopted into two Native American Sioux tribes because of his understanding of and contributions to the Native American communities.

Check out his story on the internet - it's mind-blowing.






GOOD PRIZES EASY Q's

Saturday 13th APRIL
7.30pm start

HERE AT RAR H.Q.




\$65 Table
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT BAR or
YOUR BATTALION REP

Full Bar Facilities
Tea and Coffee supplied

Governor hosts cocktail party for Trek supporters



Lt. Col Moose Dunlop, Director of Trojan's Trek with Stephen Cates, Trojan's Trek Administrative Coordinator; Chris Ftinogiannis and Reuben Vanderzalm, Managing Directors of Adelaide Exercise Physiology; Nyssa McCarthy and Sarah Slayman.

It was with sincere gratitude that I accepted the invitation of the State Governor to host the supporters of the program to drinks at Government House on 6 December.

As with all functions of this nature it was hard to draw the line at the agreed number of invitations to be issued. However, this was achieved with 50 supporters attending, dressed in the appropriate finery. Both the Governor and his wife Liz were in attendance to welcome and chat with the group. The occasion provided recognition of their collective input in a relaxed atmosphere in a beautiful environment which could never have been achieved within my limited resources.

It was also beneficial for the group to gain awareness of the breadth and scope of the program and each parties input. All in all a wonderful experience.

- Moose Dunlop OAM



Diana Lewis; Brigadier Laurie Lewis, AM, Patron of the Royal Australian Regiment Association SA; His Excellency the Governor Kevin Scarce; and Mr Rob Sandercock.



Mrs Minnie Dunlop; Mr Ian Kelly, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Veterans' Affairs; Jan Chorley, CEO of the Repat Foundation; and Colonel Susan Neuhaus, CSC, General Surgeon and Surgeon Oncologist.



Mrs Minnie Dunlop, Mrs Heather Sandercock, Treasurer, Mr Rob Sandercock and Mrs Jo Vanderzalm, wife of Reuben Vanderzalm, Managing Director of Adelaide Exercise Physiology.



Mr Peter Keith, a facilitator for Trojan's Trek, from Camp Hill, Queensland; Sal Dunlop; Diane Ranck, Director Marketing and Communications, Flinders University; and Emeritus Professor Ross Kalucy, OA, past Director of Psychiatric Services, Flinders University.

Wright support from Senator and Greens

Penny Wright is well known to many servicemen and women for her "across the board" support of just causes. Senator, lawyer, activist and mum, she is a person who is happy to go with her gut feelings on many issues. And she is certainly across many. Check out her twitter account! It was indeed pleasing to see her at the RAR Association Christmas drinks in December for a chat about many matters including Trojan's Trek.

Her interest in such programs is predictable given her passion for social justice matters.

Her presence was also rewarded with the opportunity to speak to a few trekkers about the impact of Trojan's Trek on their lives.

Nonetheless, it was with surprise that shortly after, the program received a significant donation from Senator Wright and the Greens. The team are most appreciative as it will directly support the 2013 trek. - **Moose Dunlop**



Penny Wright with Moose at the Christmas party.



Trojan's Trek Director Moose Dunlop, OAM, with Marian Harper and Tim Harper, Managing Director of Pioneer Tanks, who loan a vehicle for the Treks.

COMBINED UNITS HAT DICH COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE - 19 January 2013



Left: Michelle Matthews, daughter of Corporal Bruno Adamczyk KIA 12.7.69, with her husband Warren and children Dylan, 10, and Morgan, 12, Bruno's grandchildren.



David Stacey, President 9 RAR SA; Laurie Lewis, Patron RAR SA; Michael von Berg, President RAR SA; Tessa Genovese (obscured except for her legs); John Genovese, President 1 RAR SA; Sandra Buckingham; Andrew (Buck) Buckingham, President 4 RAR SA.



Visitors Len and Marrie Kelsey with Chaplain David Prior, 9 Battalion Charlie Coy 9 Platoon, President of Boss Products USA.



Above: The banners of 1 RAR, 4 RAR and SASR with wreaths placed during the service. Below: Catherine Lambert and The Terrace Singers and (right) Piper Des Ross

The 1st Battalion and 9th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment and the 4th Battalion; the Royal Australian Regiment/NZ (ANZAC), 2nd Squadron, the Special Air Service Regiment, C Squadron the 1st Armoured Regiment; and A Squadron, the 3rd Cavalry Regiment combined for a Hat Dich Commemorative Service on the Pathway of Honour. Representative from each unit addressed the gathering, which included several young relatives of service personnel.



Adrian Craig, Ceremonial Officer 9 RAR SA, with Karina Gabell, niece of Reg Phillips, 9 RAR KIA 18 January 1969, among those honoured on the day, with her children, Reg's grandnieces, Chloe, 4, and Ruby, 1.



From left: David Stacey, President 9 RAR SA delivering the Commemorative Address; Andrew (Buck) Buckingham, President 4 RAR SA reading The Ode; John Genovese, President 1 RAR SA giving the Scripture Reading and Gene Costa, Vice President 9 RAR SA reading the names of the RAAC war dead.

Operation Renmark – The Long Hais and Land Mines

This article by Fred Fairhead is an extract from
his unfinished

Potted History of the RAR in the Vietnam War: 1965-1972

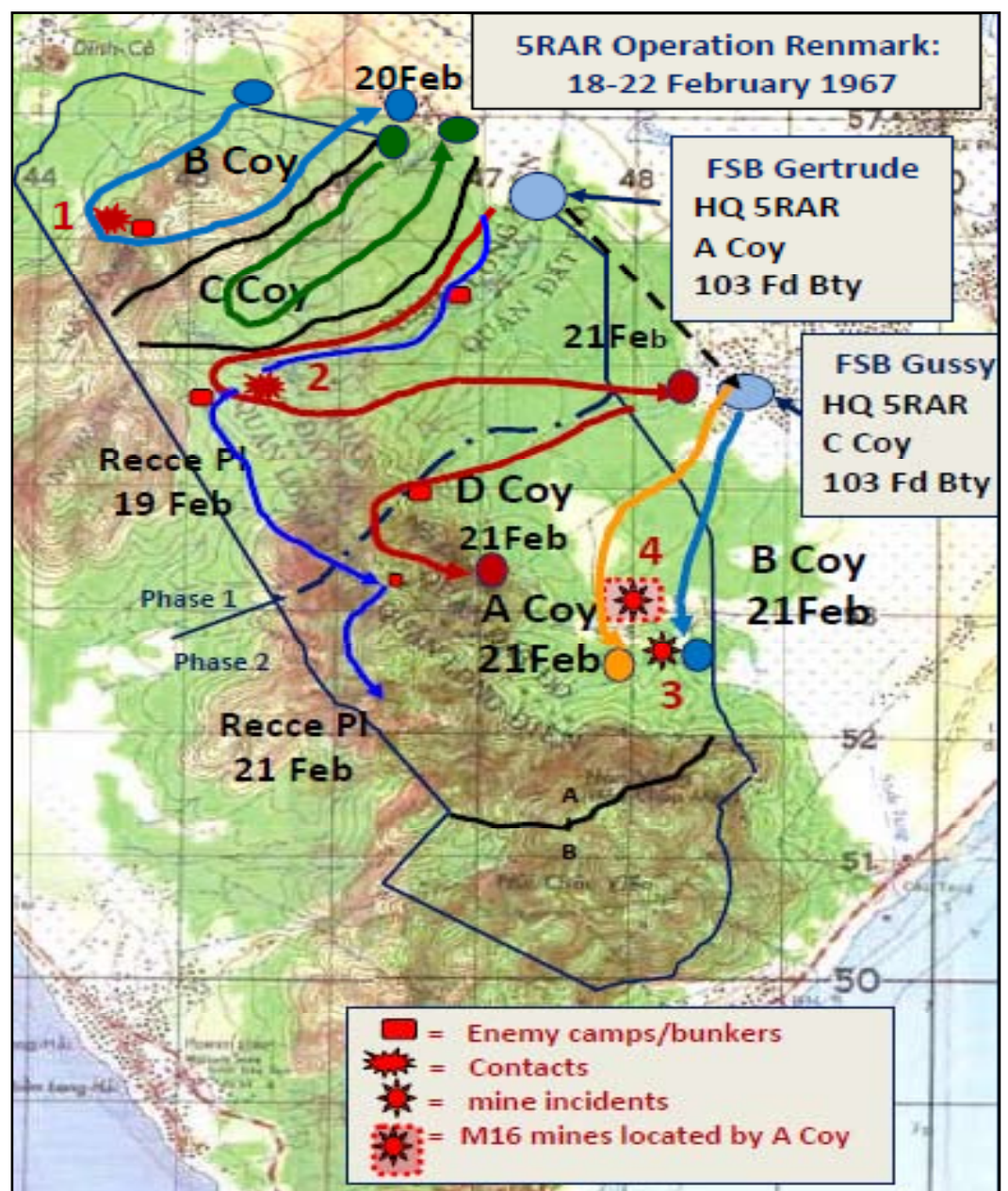
February 1967 was not a good month for 5RAR. On 14 February the Battalion lost the Commander of C Company (Maj DM Bourne), the Company 2IC (Capt RB Milligan) and the Artillery Forward Observer (Capt P Williams, RNZA). They were killed by an ARVN booby trap which detonated outside the village of An Nhut; 13 other men were wounded.

On 18 February, the Battalion commenced Operation Renmark a search and destroy operation in the Long Hai Hills which had been a sanctuary for enemy forces since the First Indochina War against the French. Indeed the enemy name for the area, the Minh Dam Secret Zone, was named after Viet Minh heroes. The operation had been planned to commence early on the 18 February but was delayed by the commitment of A Company (Maj OM Carroll) to 6RAR's operation in the Light Green (Bribie) and started at 3.30 pm. By last light the companies had deployed on the northwestern edge of the AO ready to commence the two-phase search and destroy operation in allotted search areas.

On 19 and 20 February both B Company (Maj MB McQualter) and the newly formed Reconnaissance (Recce) Platoon (2Lt MG Deak) operating with D Company (Maj PN Greenhalgh) had found enemy camps with bunkers. B Company also had a fleeting contact with the enemy (1) and the Recce Platoon contacted 4 VC killing one (2).

On 21 February, Phase Two of the operation commenced with B Company heading south in APCs to its allotted search area. At about 2 pm the lead carrier struck an improvised anti tank mine (a 5 inch US naval shell) which killed the crew (LCpl KL Mitchinson and Tpr RP Wilsen), three B Company soldiers (LCpl GB Green, Ptes DM Clark and MD Poole) and wounded nine others (3). As the group reacted with

counter ambush drills and the Company Commander with medics moved forward on foot to help the wounded, an M16 mine was activated killing two more soldiers (Ptes RW Sandow and JC Webster) and wounding a further nineteen, including the Company Commander and 4 Platoon Commander (Lt J Carruthers) both of whom later died. The 5RAR RMO (Capt HAD White) was flown in the 'Possum' helicopter (Lt JD Campbell) which landed near the wounded, ie in the minefield. Capt White tended the wounded with help from the B Company medic (Cpl RF Nichols) and stretcher-bearers. The wounded were then evacuated to a safe area by the 'Possum' helicopter. By this time, the Artillery Forward Observer (Lt MG Langley)



had assumed command of B Company and supervised the evacuation of the wounded and the local defence of the position. A Company was sent to the area and as it approached B Company, discovered further clusters of M16 mines (4).

The Legacy of 5RAR and 6RAR



OC 5RAR Reconnaissance Platoon, 2Lt MG Deak and (rear) Cpl GE Leach, 2 Troop 1 Field Squadron RAE. The Platoon had just reached the summit of the Long Hais on 21 February 1968, the first to do so.

Photo by courtesy of Michael Baron Von Berg, MC

With seven dead and twenty six wounded, most of whom were repatriated to Australia the following week, this incident was one of the most destructive the Regiment would suffer from mines during the war; the sense of hopelessness and frustration felt in the Battalion was compounded when on the following day, HQ 1ATF ordered 5RAR to return to Nui Dat because of a perceived enemy threat to the Base.

Despite explaining to all ranks the reason why the Battalion left the scene so quickly, it nevertheless cast a pall of gloom over the Battalion.

There was also reason for bitterness in that while the Battalion had taken care to conceal its operational intentions, HQ 1ATF had allowed the Cavalry Squadron to sweep the foot of the Long Hais only days before.

It was reasonable to assume that this activity would have alerted the VC to future intentions and they had prepared mine defences accordingly.

Awards for the 21 February Action were:

- **Military Cross:** Lt MG Langley.
- **Distinguished Flying Cross:** Lt JD Campbell.
- **Mentioned In Despatches:** Capt HAD White.

The difficulty 5RAR and 6RAR had in establishing the Australian presence in Phuoc Tuy Province cannot be overstated.

With little or no engineering construction or logistic support, the Battalions were required to occupy and prepare the defensive positions at Nui Dat while simultaneously conducting a rigorous patrol programme in a TAOR in which the enemy was able to operate at will, especially at night.

The Battalions had deployed at extremely short notice compared with the lead time for later deployments and arguably, in the worst time of the year, i.e. the wet season when the heat and humidity were intolerable for troops who were not acclimatized to such conditions.

For the better part of their tour most troops lived in 'hutchies' and even when tentage did arrive it was missing upright and ridgepoles - shades of the Crimean War and boxes of left foot boots!

There was not even enough weapons to defend the Nui Dat Base when the Battalions were out on operations, eg machine guns and .50 calibre HMGs, a weapon not known to the Australian Infantry, had to be scrounged from US Army sources to fill the gap.

In the beginning there were not even enough rifle magazines to carry more than peace-time first lines of ammunition.

As a result of the many operations conducted by 5RAR and 6RAR, the enemy's control over the populated areas was dramatically reduced and many safe havens destroyed or made untenable throughout the 1ATF TAOR.

In addition to these strenuous operations, the Battalions were also required to secure and prepare the defences at the Horseshoe Feature (D Company 5RAR) and to commence construction of the fence for the ill-fated Barrier Minefield that was to run south from the Horseshoe to the sea at Phuoc Hai.

History shows these two fine Battalions provided a solid base on which those who followed were able to build. It still wasn't going to be easy; however, 5RAR and 6RAR had made it less difficult.

Kapyong Day commemorative service Wednesday April 24

The annual Kapyong Day Commemorative Service will be conducted by the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association Incorporated at its Memorial on The Pathway of Honour Adelaide at 1100 hours on Wednesday 24 April.

Please note: The change of venue from the northern side of the National War Memorial on North Terrace to the Pathway of Honour.

It is planned that the majority of the seven surviving South Australian Kapyong veterans will be attending. The Association will retire to the London Tavern after the Service for the customary lunch.

Contact for the service: Ceremonial Officer 3 RAR SA Adrian Craig 8263 4784 or as.craig9rar@bigpond.com



Update: Fair Go Campaign for superannuation & disability pensions

The national Alliance of Defence Service Organisations, (ADSO) comprises the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA); the Naval Association of Australia (NAA); the Royal Australian Regiment Associations/Corporation (RARC); the Australian Special Air Services Association (ASASA); and the RAAF Association (RAAFA). ADSO providing member support services to the Defence family of past and current serving men and women and their families.

Military superannuation retirement pay (pension) has been indexed to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) since the 1970s. The term 'retirement pay' is used deliberately because this is a superannuation issue not a welfare payment. Every ADF member has contributed a percentage of his or her salary into their superannuation scheme.

Since 1989 military retirement payments have dropped 40% below Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE), the generally accepted index of price changes. The graph below demonstrates the impact this is having on the living standards of ex-service retirees.

The Age Pension used to be indexed to the CPI. Following agitation by age pensioners, this was changed in 1997 when a new index of the cost of living, the Pensioners and Beneficiaries Living Cost Index (PBLCI), was adopted.

Increases in age pensions are now based on the higher of the CPI or PBLCI measured bi-annually, but referenced not to fall below 27.7% of MTAWE. As a result, the purchasing power or value of age pensions and (war) service pensions are fairly well maintained, but DFRFB and other military retirement pay remains pegged to the long-discredited CPI.

All 57,000 Defence Force Retirement & Death Benefits scheme (DFRDB) superannuants receive CPI adjustments biannually, including invalidity pensioners and reversionary pensioners (widows or widowers and young children of ex-service members who have died, either in military service or in retirement). The defence reversionary pensioner receives 62.5% of what the service member's retirement pay

was, or would have got, and their payment is also indexed to the CPI.

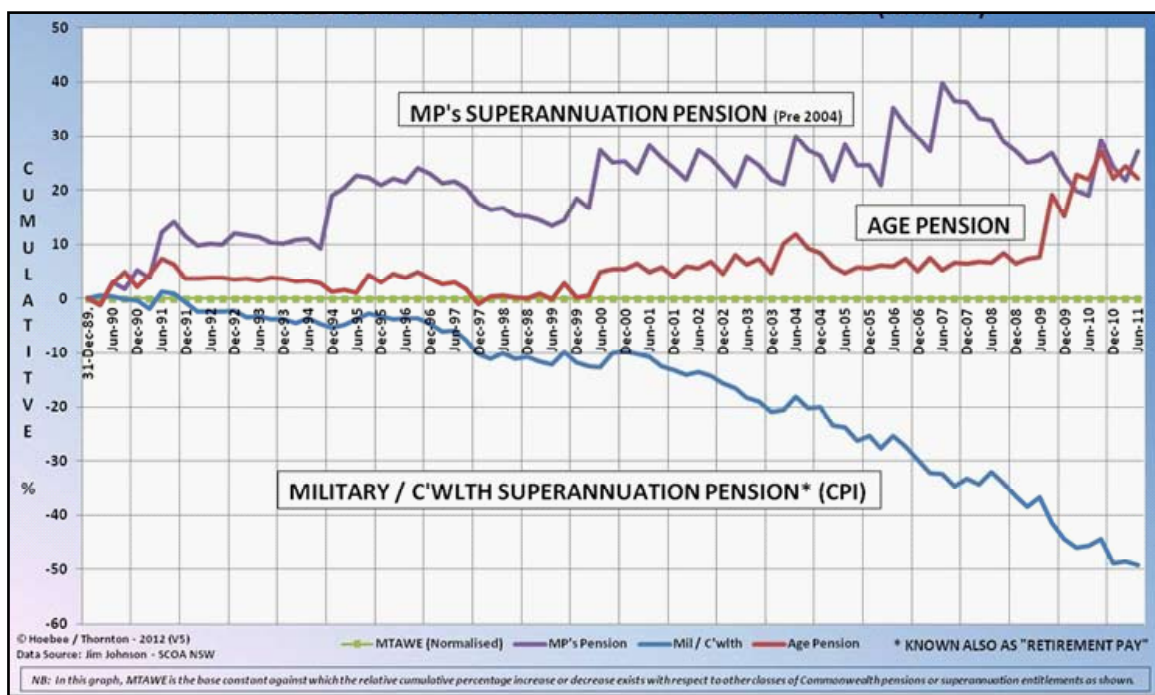
Finally, those on the new Military Superannuation Benefit Scheme (MSBS introduced in 1991) have their Employer Component withheld by the government until they reach their Preservation Age (55-60). While preserved, the member's funds are indexed to the CPI. A young person who joins the ADF at 18 serves, for say, 10 years and then leaves, cannot take their Employer Contribution and roll it into a super fund of their choice like every other worker in the nation. When they finally get access to their Employer Component its value could be as much as \$360,000 less than they could have earned by rolling it over into a private superannuation fund (based on Government figures). No private sector employee is treated in this way.

What is ADSO Campaigning for? We want the same indexation basis as age pensions.

This would see the restoration of a condition of service we have been denied for 25 years. We want nothing more than what was promised in the employment contract – retirement pay which maintains purchasing power. This would ensure ex-service men and women could live with dignity and not have to rely on Centrelink payments to make ends meet.

What's the Current Situation?

The Coalition has pledged to partially restore fair indexation in their first Budget should they win government in September. The Labor government continues to refuse to grant fair indexation and does not provide any reasonable justification for their position. They and the Greens continue to treat ex-service retirees as second-class citizens. The fight for a Fair Go goes on!



Old Faithful hands over to 7RAR

Reprinted from Duty First
Volume 10 Number 6
By Max Blenkin, APP

Australia's Afghanistan task group formed around the Townsville-based 3rd Battalion (3RAR) has formally handed over operations to their compatriots from the South Australian-based 7RAR. In a transfer of authority ceremony conducted at the main base at Tarin Kout this week 3RAR Task Group commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel Trent Scott said the men and women under his command had achieved considerable success in operations and in enhancing the ability of Afghan security forces to handle their own security.

"The 3RAR Task Group displayed remarkable patience, perseverance, maturity and professionalism in the way they went about their business and I am extremely proud of each and everyone of them," he said in a statement. Through the Afghan summer and autumn, the 3RAR Task Group conducted major operations clearing the Tangi Valley, Chora Valley, Khaz Uruzgan and Shah Wali Kot to disrupt the insurgency and secure the local population.

The group lost three soldiers, all shot dead in a single "green on blue" attack by a rogue Afghan soldier on August 29

Australia's mission in Afghanistan is involving with Australia's forces ending routine patrolling activity with Afghan forces and withdrawing from all forward bases back into the main base at Tarin Kout.

That coincides with the four infantry Kandaks (Italians) of the Aghans National Army 4th Brigade now



The 7th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Task Group flag is raised to symbolise the transfer of authority from the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Task Group

deemed capable of conducting operations independent of Australian mentors. That also means an end to the designations of Australia's main military contribution to Afghanistan as the Mentoring Task Force. From now on, the task group is designated according to the Australian army battalion from which most of its members are drawn. 7RAR Task Group commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel Malcolm Wells said the shift in posture had been made possible by the positive progress of the transition process and the ANA's growing independence and capabilities.

"The 3RAR Task Group has done a magnificent job. They have left an indelible mark here on the province, the ANA 4th Brigade and the local people. They have left very big shoes for us to fill," he said in a statement. "The challenge for us is to help ensure the 4th Brigade continues to proceed along the transition path to full security responsibility."

Commanding Officer 7th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Task Group, Lieutenant Colonel Malcolm Wells, addresses his troops during the Transfer of authority ceremony with the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Task Group.



Australia Day honour

Mr Darren Renshaw of Clovelly Park was honoured with the AM - Member in the General Division - in the Australia Day Honours list for outstanding public service to the Repatriation General Hospital and to the wider veteran community.

For more than 20 years, Mr Renshaw has held the position of Veteran and Community Adviser at the Repatriation General Hospital in a role requiring sensitivity, deep empathy and understanding of the issues involving ex-service personnel. He is responsible for the provision of information and advice to war veterans and their dependants as well as maintaining professional liaison with a diverse range of more than veterans' affairs.

He is an excellent ambassador for the Repatriation General Hospital and is valued and respected by veterans for his willingness to assist in providing wise advice and leadership while always seeking ways to provide improved service delivery.

Mr Renshaw's preparedness to serve the veteran community is further illustrated by his voluntary work for a number of related organisations, such as the Friends of the Repatriation General Hospital, the Veterans' Health Advisory Council, the Deputy Commissioner's Advisory Forum and the Consultative Council of Ex-Service

Organisations.

In addition, Mr Renshaw volunteers to edit the Repat News and coordinates all veteran and ex-service events at the Repatriation General Hospital and the many personal functions that families seek to hold at the Repat Chapel. Mr Renshaw has provided outstanding service, involving much voluntary work and bringing much peace of mind to many vulnerable veterans and their families.

From material forwarded to *Infantryman*

Medicare numbers and your Gold Card

Patients at some clinic appointments are being asked for their Medicare numbers. Please be assured that Medicare numbers are not essential. Gold cardholders may choose to present only their Gold Card.

It is not necessary to produce a Medicare card to obtain treatment.

Please feel free to politely advise staff requesting your Medicare details that you are able to obtain treatment on the strength of your Gold Card alone.

White Card holders will need to present their Medicare details for any service not covered by their White Card entitlement.

- Welfare Officer **Lyn Fisher**

7 RAR TASK GROUP ON OPERATIONS IN URUZGAN 2012-13

This article has been written by LT Col Malcolm Wells, below, Commanding Officer Task Group 12 in Afghanistan, exclusively for *Infantryman*



The 7 RAR Task Group assumed responsibility for operations in Uruzgan Province in Afghanistan in late November, and continues to lead Australia's efforts to train, mentor and advise the 4th Brigade of the 205th Afghan National Army Corps.

It is the Battalion's third tour to the Province; having formed part of the first Reconstruction Task Force (RTF) in 2006-07 to provide security to the Australian Engineer Task Force who began rebuilding infrastructure and developing skills in Tarin Kot.

In 2008-09 7 RAR formed the core of the Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force (MRTF), where Australia began its role mentoring and now advising the 4th Brigade.

Several soldiers are veterans of the Battalion's three tours, and many are back for their second time.

The progress they see in the capability of the Afghan Army, the overall security situation and the general progress of the Province is immense, and a real marker that the Coalition strategy in the Province is working. For the RTF veterans to see the freedom of movement and government influence across the Province is a stark difference to the days when movement outside of the Tarin Kot District centre was not feasible.

The 4th Brigade now plans and conducts independent Brigade level operations with only staff and command advice provided at the Brigade level from a small group of 7 RAR TG advisors.

This is a stark difference from the days of the MRTF when the growing Afghan Army needed training and mentoring for even the most basic of soldier skills. The Afghan National Army still has a long way to go, but the signs of progress are real, and it is clear that our investment over many years has given them the fighting edge they need over the Taliban insurgency.

In addition to advising the Afghan National Army, the 7 RAR Task Group also supports Australia's leadership of Combined Team Uruzgan, the Brigade sized headquarters that is responsible for all Coalition operations within Uruzgan Province.

7 RAR provides protection to the civilian advisors in the Uruzgan Provincial Reconstruction Team who assist the Provincial government and also coordinate development to improve infrastructure and services within the Province.

The unit also provides reaction and protection forces for a range of specialist capabilities used by Coalition forces. These responsibilities mean the young combat troops and their leaders in the Task Group are kept busy with a range of tasks requiring high levels of alertness, awareness of the Province, and the discipline to maintain a posture that enables them to react as necessary to the range of situations that could present themselves.

The 7 RAR Task Group is also working to prepare for the expected end of the mission in Uruzgan Province at the end of 2013.

This presents immense logistical challenges as we begin



Photo 3: 7th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Task Group Other Government Agency Platoon One, Joint Terminal Attack Controller Bombardier Steve Connor, uses his spotting scope in an overwatch position during a patrol with the Managed Works Team in Uruzgan Province.

the process of emptying the base of almost a decade's worth of accumulated equipment. In addition to sustaining the operations of the Task Group our logistical staff are making outstanding headway in this problem.

From the moment the 7 RAR Task Group was warned for operations, through the pre-deployment training period, the farewell parade and our first three months of operations, we have received only generous and outstanding support from the people of South Australia and veterans groups. For this, we are immensely grateful.

I know I speak for all the soldiers of the Task Group to say that we are immensely proud of what are doing, and are confident that it is making a difference on the ground in a place that has known only war and misery for far too long.

I think it is fair to say that through our sacrifice and hard work the future for Uruzgan Province looks better than its past.

7 RAR TASK GROUP IN URUZGAN



Private Graham Mahon from the 7th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Task Group prepares to board a Black hawk helicopter in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan.



Photo 2: Snipers from the 7th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Task Group observe the mountains of Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan.



Photo 4: 7th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Task Group Other Government Agency One, Platoon Sergeant Matt McMahon (right) identifies a landmark for Joint Terminal Attack Controller Bombardier Steve Connor, during a patrol with the Managed Works Team in Uruzgan Province.

Ward 17 of Repat transition of care coordinators

Ward 17 recently underwent a review to determine the best way to meet emerging needs within the veteran population.

As a part of the review, a proposal to enhance discharge planning (as requested by Veterans through the Ward 17 Consumer & Carer Advisory Group) will be implemented.

The initiative will be part of the working role which **Louise Checkley**, a senior social worker on Ward 17, will undertake.

The objectives of the change are to work with you during your in-patient stay and, more importantly, to follow up with you post discharge, (if required and clinically indicated.)

It is intended that this initiative will:

1. Improve the quality of care for veterans following discharge from hospital.
2. Encourage veterans to take a greater role in their own discharge planning process.
3. Improved health outcomes of Veterans, through optimal discharge outcomes and reduced frequency of relapse leading to re-admission.

The new role will be professionally evaluated and Louise will keep the Veteran community appraised, via the Consumer & Carer Advisory Group, as to how this new initiative is evolving

Warren Featherby
On behalf of Ward 17
Consumer & Carer Advisory Group
0412 462 143
featherby41@bigpond.com

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FROM THE BATTALIONS



A formal dinner was held during the National Conference of the RARA in Singleton in early December. President Michael von Berg is seen front row seventh from left, with SA Club Manager Rodney Graham back row fifth from right and Treasurer Mike Bevan back row third from right.

5 RAR

On Monday February 25 a group of Tigers, pictured right, from both tours met for one of their regular lunches at the Hackney Hotel. **Dave Rowe**, a 1st tour Tiger, was our special guest. Unfortunately Dave, standing second from right, was a bit camera shy and is partially obscured.

Yet again it was an outstanding event organised by **Chas** and **Mos**. As usual, most of the wives and partners attended, but were also camera shy.



9 RAR

We finished 2012 with our National Reunion in Sydney followed by our AGM with a lunch on December 6.

As usual we hit the New Year running with the commemorative services for our war dead from Operation Goodwood - Jeff Duroux, January 5; Allan Graham, January 7; Reg Phillips, January 18; John Cock and Harry Musicka; January 19, Bruce Plane, January 20; and Peter Chant, 14 February 2013.

On March 5 we conducted a service for Grantley Scales. We have two in July - Rick Abraham July 6 and Bruno Adamczyk July 12.

On 19 January 2013 we coordinated the Combined Units Hat Dich Commemorative Service (pictured) with 1 RAR, 4 RAR and SASR. The RAAC Vietnam Veterans Association members were absent this year. This was followed by a light lunch at the RAR Association. The service was treated as a dress rehearsal for the commemorative service for the 45th



Anniversary of the Battle which will take place on 19 January 2014.

Socially we had a night out on February 17, which went well. Our next major social event will be our Country Weekend at Berri from May 10 to 12.

From October 14 to 29 Association members will be coordinating the Vietnam Friendship Tour.

We are in the process of having an additional 19 pavers placed on the RAR Association's Memorial Wall. This, with the existing 16 pavers, will commemorate all of our 35 war dead.

Our Committee has already started planning of the 45th Anniversary of 9 RAR's tour of Vietnam, which departed from Outer Harbour on 9 November 1969 and returned on 10 December 1968.

It is also looking at means of additional fundraising to cover our expenses.

Adrian Craig

FROM THE BATTALIONS

From left:
3 RAR
President
Bob Whelan
and his wife,
Denise, Ken
Duthie and
Carmen
Webster,
Membership
Officer David
White and
Secretary
Neil Nichols.



Peter
Scott and
Dr Donald
Beard pay
their last
respects
at the
funeral of
Tom de
Vries van
Leeuwen.

3 RAR

December 2012 to December 2013 has been and will be a busy time for the Association as it celebrates the 45th Anniversary of 3 RAR's 1st Tour of South Vietnam, which depart from Outer Harbor on 16 December 1967 and returned on 2 December 1968.

We started the year of anniversaries with a Commemorative Service and Christmas Party at the RAR Association on 16 December 2012. Both were very successful, especially as some of the family members of our Vietnam war dead came to both.

This year we will be conducting seven commemorative services for our Vietnam war dead from the 1st Tour and have already conducted two - **Robert Caston** on February 4 and **Tom de Vries van Leeuwen** February 18. We are making family members of our Vietnam war dead honorary members of our Association.

We will be conducting a 45th Anniversary of the Battle for Fire Support Base Balmoral commemorative service at our memorial on Sunday May 26 in addition to our normal Kapyong and Maryang San commemorative

services. We have been given a grant from the SA Government for the Balmoral Service.

We, along with the 2/10th Infantry Battalion AIF Club, will be arranging the construction and dedication of a memorial to the 50th Infantry Battalion AIF. The dedication service will be on Tuesday August 13 on The Pathway of Honour.

On the social side we have been and will be fairly busy with a lunch at The Hackney Hotel on January 18 and our next lunch at the same after our AGM on Monday April 5. On Friday June 14 we will be having a country bus trip to Clare.

We maintain an active website and currently have a membership of about 182 - most of whom are financial. Our Vice President **Ken Duthie** continues in his role as Schools' Military History Officer.

All of our activities need funding beyond our annual membership fees and we hold a fundraising sausage sizzle at Bunnings Windsor Gardens on most months of the year.

Adrian Craig



2RAR

The planning for the National Reunion in Adelaide during ANZAC 2014 continues.

Confirmation has been received that his Excellency the Governor, Rear Admiral Scarce, will lay a wreath at the Commemoration Service at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial at 1100hrs on 23 Wednesday April 2014.

Tom Young, the reunion coordinator, can be contacted on tjyoung@hotmail.com or 8269 4171. 2 RAR (SA) will join the rest of the RAR (SA) Association for the reunion at the Lion Hotel, Lower North Adelaide, after the March.

Mal Allen

Above: Robert Caston's
relatives at his commemorative
service (from left) Cory Lucas,
Phillip Caston, Sue Caston,
Herman Lucas holding Xavier
Lucas, Catherine Lucas,
Rosemary Caston and her
daughters, Emilie and Kalena.

Royal Australian Regiment Association Committee 2011-2012

Elected Positions

Patron	Laurie Lewis AM	
President	Michael von Berg MC mvb@michaelvonberg.com	0411 870 055
Vice President	Mike Dennis MBE mikedennis@internode.on.net	0422 235 356
Secretary	Bob Whinnen rlwhinnen@bigpond.com.au	0413 189 558
Treasurer	Mike Bevan mikeb3@netspace.net.au	0416 106 578
Webmaster	Rod Graham rodg2@bigpond.com	0427 977 145
Manager - Club		
Manager - Ceremonial	Adrian Craig as.craig9rar@bigpond.com	8263 4784
Welfare Officer	Lyn Fisher fishernine@bigpond.com	8371 3090

Trojan's Trek

Director	Moose Dunlop OAM moose@trojanstrek.com	0408 088 886
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Nominated Voluntary Positions

Bar Manager	Rod Graham	0427 977 145
Membership	Greg Dwiar subpol@iprimus.com.au	0412 644 749
Webmaster	Mike Bevan murray.clarkson@bigpond.com.au	0419 822 427
Editor - Infantryman	Penelope Forster penelopeforster01@gmail.com	08 8379 5500
Project Manager:		
Special Projects	Mike Dennis MBE mikedennis@internode.on.net	0422 235 356
Trojan's Trek	Moose Dunlop OAM moose@olis.net.au	0408 088 886

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9 RAR Lyn Fisher	fishernine@myacn.net.au	8371 3090

RAR (SA) RSL Sub-Branch

President	Mike Dennis MBE mikedennis@internode.on.net	0422 235 356
Secretary	Lyn Graham lagrah@bigpond.com	0427 977 145
Treasurer	Ann Dennis dennisclan@internode.on.net	8387 7726

Headquarters and Clubroom

13 Beatty Street, Linden Park, South Australia 5065

Phone: (08) 8379 5771 Website: www.rarsa.org.au

Email: rar01@internode.on.net

2013 Events

APRIL

Friday 5	Barbecue
Friday 12	Ladies Night
Friday 19	Bar Snacks
Wednesday 24	Kapyong Day
Thursday 25	ANZAC Day
Friday 26	Schnitzel

Note: No meal Anzac Day

May

Friday 3	Barbecue
Friday 10	Ladies Night
Friday 17	Bar Snacks
Friday 24	Barbecue
Friday 30	Schnitzel

June

Friday 7	Barbecue
Friday 14	Ladies Night
Friday 21	Bar Snacks
Friday 28	Schnitzel

July

Friday 5	Barbecue
Friday 12	Ladies Night
Friday 19	Bar Snacks
Friday 26	Schnitzel

August

Friday 2	Barbecue
Friday 9	Ladies Night
Friday 16	Bar Snacks
Friday 23	Barbecue
Friday 30	Schnitzel

September

Friday 6	Ladies Night
Friday 13	Bar Snacks
Friday 20	Barbecue
Friday 27	Schnitzel

October

Friday 4	Ladies Night
Friday 11	Bar Snacks
Friday 18	Barbecue
Friday 24	Schnitzel

November

Friday 1	Ladies Night
Friday 8	Bar Snacks
Friday 15	Barbecue
Friday 22	Schnitzel
Friday 29	Club Christmas Drinks

December

Friday 5	Barbecue
Friday 12	Ladies Night
Friday 19	Bar Snacks