



INFANTRYMAN

The Journal of the RAR Association SA
Keeping the Spirit Alive

December 2013



Students' involvement admirable

His Excellency, Mr Hieu Van Le, AO, the Governor's Deputy, met Rostrevor College students when they had the opportunity to be part of the 50th AIF memorial service. They are, from left, Patrick Thomas, Lachlan Rich, Jesse Hall and Zac Reardon. More pages 10 & 11

Skills achieve great outcomes in 2013

Another calendar year of challenges and achievements has passed us by. Where has it gone? It seems we only celebrated the last Christmas yesterday but here it is on us again.

The Association's Christmas drinks will be held at our clubrooms on Friday December 6 and all of our members are invited to attend.

Many of you who have not been at our clubrooms for some time will be as delighted as we are with the new bar facade. It has completely lifted the bar area to another level, reminiscent of a bar in an operational area, but with a five star feel.

We must thank the engine room people who have worked so hard to make the bar and our clubrooms more appealing. Rod, George, Spike, Mike B, David and others who pitched in to make this a feature in the clubrooms are to be congratulated and thanked for what is a marvellous job.

What we ex-regular Army types sometimes forget is the numerous skills the ex-National Servicemen bring to the table. Not only could we not have done what we did in South Vietnam without them but in a club like ours where from time to time trade or professional skills are required the Nasho invariably has those skills and gives them freely and willingly.

The regular ex-servicemen and women often provide other skills but in my case I wouldn't know one end of a brick from another or how to execute a clean cut with

a saw, unless invariably unwittingly killing fruit trees at home.

Ken Duthie and his schools military history project has, and continues to be, a remarkably unique and essential educational project for our young people in schools. His displays feature the history of the Australian Defence Forces and the meaning of the spirit of Anzac and many other battle honors and importantly what it means to those who served and the nation.

His collection of military memorabilia is phenomenal and covers all three services, in some case back to the Boer War. Much of this has been donated, purchased through a State Government grant and, in many instances, by Ken himself.

His enthusiasm and the way he has been embraced by all schools are evidenced by the numerous letters received congratulating and thanking Ken for his efforts. He has reached tens of thousands of young people through this program in a considered and professional way where youngsters are able to experience another take on the military which they most certainly would not be getting through their current school curriculum.

We have had considerable success with the "Fair Go" campaign through the efforts of **John Wilson** and many others. However, the proof of the pudding will be in the eating to see what the newly elected coalition Government do about the unfair indexation of military superannuation.

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FROM THE COMMAND POST

Continued from page 1

Making promises in writing pre-election is one thing. Implementing what is an immoral and grossly unjust indexation system is another and we will be holding this Government to account. We are very conscious of our apolitical position and if we feel there is a problem affecting our serving or ex-serving members we will tackle that professionally, no matter what political persuasion is in power.

On November 10 I attended the dedication of the first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander memorial in Australia. What an impressive memorial and moving ceremony it was, attended by Her Excellency, the Governor General of Australia.

I am very fortunate in having seen many memorials around the world from both sides of the conflict. But this one, on the corner of the Torrens Parade Ground, is very special, not only in concept and design, but at long last we have symbolically and morally officially recognised since the Boer War the incredible contribution in defending our nation by the first people of this great country.

I have written previously on the topic of the fact that so many of us have served with Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders - and what great people and soldiers they are. When laying the tribute yesterday it was as much personal as official in remembering the late Corporal **Norman Womal**, tragically killed in action in the Nui Thi Vai Mountains on the 16 October 1966.

It's easy to say "too little too late" and that may well be the case. But this memorial and all who have made it happen are to be congratulated for what is a powerful symbol and message that conflict and those who served is not just a white man's domain but a call to arms of all Australians including our indigenous brothers and sisters.

The young Aboriginal students from some of the private schools acting as ushers were fantastic. It simply reinforces the view that education and opportunity is what young Aboriginal people need to better themselves and their people.

There are so many people to thank for what has been another successful year. **Mike Dennis** who is fighting



The war memorial dedicated to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service personnel was officially opened in Adelaide on November 10 by Her Excellency, Governor General, Quentin Bryce.

The memorial is on the north west corner of Adelaide's Torrens Parade Ground. A World War I nurse and a World War II soldier cast, in bronze on a large boulder, overlook the ritual circle which includes a Coolamon dish on another rock for smoking ceremonies.

There is a winding path leading to the memorial containing the names of indigenous servicemen and servicewomen.

The memorial was designed by Lee-Ann Tjunypa Buckskin, Michelle Nikou and Tony Rosella. Sculptor Robert Hannaford worked on the statues which were cast in bronze by Tim Thomson.

Contributed by Mal Allan

his own battles; **Rod Graham, Mike Bevan, Spike Dwiar, Colin Abel, Bob Whinnen, Adrian Craig, Noel Smith** and so many others who contributed throughout the year.

We simply could not function without the hands-on support of these people. In particular I would like to thank the ladies of the club and association whose patience and tolerance at times is sorely tested. **Barb, Lyn, Ann and Lynn** - without your support we would probably be just another club, but you lift us to a higher standard. Thank you in particular to **Lyn Graham** for not only her minute keeping but keeping **Rodney** on track; **Penelope Forster** for compiling and editing the *Infantryman* magazine; and **Lyn Fisher** for all of the work she does for the ex-service community at Daw Park and elsewhere.

In conclusion thank you to our Patron, **Laurie Lewis**, whose support and counsel as always are often timely and invaluable and to our Battalion representatives and our membership. We exist only to serve that membership and it is that duty that will continue to "keep the spirit alive".

I hope you all have a happy, healthy and safe Christmas and I look forward to your support and friendship in the challenges ahead.

Michael von Berg MC
President.



*The Royal Australian Regiment Association
Christmas Drinks
Clubrooms, Beatty Street, Linden Park
Friday December 6 at 4pm
All Members, wives and partners welcome.*

Sculpture captures spirit of Aboriginal soldiers

After seven years of hard work and the raising of more than \$1 million, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial was dedicated by the Governor-General, Her Excellency the Honourable **Quentin Bryce**, AC, CVO, and the Memorial Committee Chair, Ms **Marj Tripp**, in a splendid ceremony in brilliant sunshine on November 10. Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal servicemen and service women – past and present, joined Aboriginal elders and friends for this long awaited and very special day. The beautiful sculptures standing atop this culturally sensitive and quite beautiful memorial will now stand forever as true testimony to the military service of our Aboriginal brothers and sisters in peace and war. The sculptures are particularly beautiful and sculptor **Robert Hannaford** has captured perfectly the spirit of strength,



resolve and love of country in the sculpture of the Aboriginal soldier in World War I uniform and of the service woman in World War II uniform. Both sculptures are truly beautiful works of art and are a credit to the designers **Tony Rosella, Lee-ann Tjunypa Buckskin** and **Michelle Nikou**.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial Committee is to be congratulated for its hard work that first commenced in 2007. They faced many difficulties and it is pleasing to see their dedication and persistence rewarded.

It is the intention of the committee to apply for national recognition of the Memorial thus making it the first and only National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial. Such recognition is governed by Commonwealth legislation and an application for national recognition cannot be made until the memorial is opened to the public.

If you haven't seen the memorial it is well worth a visit – it sits proudly alongside the Vietnam War Memorial adjacent Torrens Parade Ground.



Top: Governor General Quentin Bryce. Above: Vietnam veterans Les Kropinyeri and Gill Green with Frank Clark delivering the Ode.

Photos: Kate Elmes (www.kateelmesphotography.net).

We are what we think - Part 1

Padre David Prior
7 RAR (Mech Inf)

You may have heard people say “we are what we eat”. What if it was equally true, that “we are what we think!” Like any diet our body grows or diminishes based on what sort of food we eat.

What if the way you think about life could be described in a similar way: “Fast food” great at the time, but it not good for you over time.

I find that an interesting thought. The truth about life is that things often don't go the way we plan. People disappoint us, the army sends us to places we don't want to go, and when we look in the mirror we sometimes think “crap”.

What happens when the world we know changes?

What happens when your reason for getting out of bed vanishes? Or when the things that once fired you up no longer seem to have an impact? Welcome to life.

Over the last five decades I have come to accept that life will not go exactly to my plan. Being able to recognise that life is unpredictable and full of events I hadn't planned helps me be “Realistic.”

It means I am less likely to immerse myself in an “all you can eat smorgasbord” of self pity that makes me a victim. Now this is not to deny the grief and anger we all feel when things go wrong.

Recognising and giving voice to our grief is life giving, as it externalises the problem from within us, helping us see

the problem as the problem. As a Padre I am not immune to getting angry and feeling sorry for myself. However I know, that despite all the things that are happening, I have a choice.

Everyone can gather around me and support me, but unless I decide to re-engage with life, unless I find a reason to get out of bed (apart from the fear of being charged), it won't matter how many people are fluffing around me, nothing will change. After much resistance I now accept that “I am what I think”: how I think about stuff has a massive impact on how I feel about life.

Of course there are always exceptions, but even if you are grieving, suffering from depression, PTSD or are frustrated with the direction of your life, we all have a choice, which has the potential to change our lives. If you would like to make a comment about what I have written please contact me on :

david.prior1@defence.gov.au



Your club, your input, you're welcome



Yet another excellent selection



Barb and Petra



Top table: Vice President Mike Dennis and Ann with President Mike von Berg and Denise.

Reef and beef lunch fun occasion



Left: Linda Whinnen was the delighted winner of a raffle prize.



Right: Lynn Graham and Jock Letford.



Left: Noel "Mad Dog" Smith, David White and Club School History Officer Ken Duthie.



Above: Club manager Rod Graham, Tas Karasoulos, and Linda Whinnen.



Left: A game of pool for Vice President Mike Dennis, left, and computer whizz Tony Boyce.

Your club, your input, you're welcome

Right: Ann Dennis and Lynn Graham with General Cosgrove in Canberra recently.

Below: Recently seen at the RAR Club (from left) Peter Fraser 3RAR, PIR, Kim Duffy 8/9RAR, PIR, Mike Dennis 2RAR, 2/4RAR, 3RAR, 9RAR, PIR, Dave Phillips 9RAR, 8/9RAR PNGDF, Hori Howard 3RAR, PIR.



Merchandise

The following items are available at the club. Those who would like to buy items should ring Tim Karasoulos on 0457 414 857 or see him at the club.

Regt ties	\$30.00
Spray jackets	\$41.00
RAR caps	\$20.00
RAR polo shirts	\$30.00
RAR S/S vest	\$45.00
RAR L/S jacket	\$55.00
Warm-up jacket	\$51.00
RAR rugby top	\$40.00



CEREMONIAL



Above: Mike Dennis is seen above donating his uniform and medals replica to Ken Duthie for Ken's schools project.



The Association is now the proud owner of a uniform for its piper. Our Pipe Major **Des Ross** first wore the uniform at the 3 RAR Maryang San Commemorative Service 6 November . (Please insert of photo of Des in his new uniform.)

The calendar of the main commemorative services in the first half of 2014 is:

- Saturday 1 February: 4 RAR 50th Anniversary.
- Wednesday 19 February: Combined Units Hat Dich (1 RAR, 4 RAR, 9 RAR, SASR and RAAC Assoc.). Note the change from 19 January.
- Wednesday 23 April 2 RAR National Reunion Service.
- Thursday 24 April: 1100 hours. 3 RAR Kapyong Day.
- 1200 hours. Dedication of the new 2 RAR Memorial.
- Friday 25 April: ANZAC Day.



Grandparent Anne and Mike Dennis with son and daughter-in-law Simon and Michelle and the family's newest arrival, Harvey.

REUNION: A Company 3 RAR Vietnam 1967-68



Above: Butchart family. Top left: Rick and Dianne Lepore. Right: Remembrance Day service.

Photos: Julieanne Vincent.

Acknowledgement is made to the three coordinating families of the A Company reunion of the first tour of Vietnam in Adelaide from October 11 to 13.

Rod Watson and Cath, Doug Dick and Jo, Rick Lepore and Dianne tirelessly took on the arrangements for accommodation and entertainment venues

Friday October 11 - When we arrived at the meet and greet night at Morphettville Junction Sports Club we registered, were given name tags and commemorative A Coy 3 RAR pin. Faces had aged slightly since the last reunion, but we all recognised each other. Finger food and copious quantities of alcohol were enjoyed.

Since Vietnam we have lost another 36 of our own. They were not forgotten in absentia nor those who could not attend and those who sent apologies, from company HQ through to the platoons to the sections. Everyone enjoyed each others company and at times expanded war stories of events which occurred some 45 years ago. Many sore heads were felt the next morning but, as in the past, we prepared to soldier on

Saturday October 12 - At 12.30hrs some 25 plus members attended a barbecue at the RAR Association SA at Linden Park, the home of the Regiment in SA. 3 RAR SA Association members tended bar, organised salads etc and cooked the meats. Thanks go to **Bob and Denise Whelan and Neil Nichols**.

Hori Howard, Maj Gen AO, MC, ESM Retd., OC A Coy on our first tour, was met by Brig Laurie Lewis AM (Retd.), Patron of the RAR Association in SA. Lt Col Mike Dennis MBE (Retd.), Association Vice President, and his wife Anne welcomed reunion participants on behalf of the Association.

The bar was kept busy and the hospitality received



acknowledgement. After being fed and enjoying conversation, some three hours later they prepared to depart to rest up for the evening's activities. Those who chose not to visit the Regiment Association, toured around Adelaide, went to the races or other events.

Thank you. Remember when you visit this is as much your home as our. You are always welcome.

At the Altavilla Club, a magnificent venue in which to hold the formal dinner, life members **Rick and Dianne Lepore** arranged for us not to have to pay a booking fee. The venue owner, being ex 9 RAR, certainly helped in this way as he understood our military minds and service as was one of us.

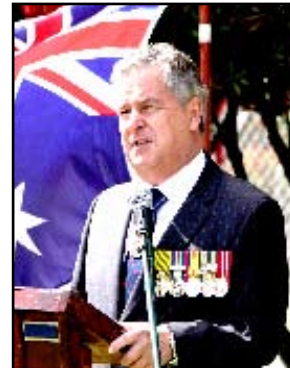
The venue decked out in military colours to add to the atmosphere. The women looking resplendent in after-five outfits, complementing their partners in suits with medals proudly adorning their jackets. The Butchart family wore their dad Jock's medals.

Our absent friends were not forgotten, the memorial cross bearing all of their names - Vietnam and Post Vietnam - visible for all to see and the table set with an Australian flag, slouch hat and bayonet filling the empty space.

The meal, service and the presentation were excellent. Towards the end of the evening a quiz tested our knowledge of past events in Vietnam. I know our table didn't win. Jim and Monica Sonego, having organised the previous three reunions, were invited to cut the cake to acknowledge 45 years since our service in Vietnam.

Sunday October 13. - The culmination of the reunion

first tour in Adelaide 11-13 October 2013



Top left: Poppy placing. Above: Horrie Howard; Rob Watson; the Governor Kevin Scarce at Keswick. Left: Jim and Monica Sonegos cutting the anniversary cake. Below: The boys.



was the memorial service to our fallen and those who have since passed on at Keswick Barracks .

Site preparation began at 0830 hrs with the placement of flags, erecting tents and the placing of seating for guests and A Coy members. Doug Dick was MC for the service which started at 1100 hrs with the arrival of the Governor of South Australia, His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AO, CSC, RANR (Retd) and Mrs Scarce.

His Excellency was introduced to MajGen Hori Howard AO, MC,ESM (Retd), Doug Dick, Rick Lepore, 3 RAR Association President Bob Whelan by Rod Watson and escorted to their places, where everyone stood for the Vice Regal salute. Doug welcomed all in attendance. Rod presented the welcoming address, the officiating Chaplain David Harding gave the call to worship, and Hori Howard, our leader, presented the commemorative address.

Hori outlined the contribution his company gave to the conflict and the toll it had taken since.

The Governor gave his address. He was aboard the HMAS Sydney, the Vung Tau ferry, at the time of our deployment, seeing the way we left our shores and the way in which we returned tired and changed of personality by war. We thank him and the Sydney's crew for looking after our tired and weary bodies.

Peter Fraser read the Eulogies of Tom De vries Van Leeuwen, Roger Fisher, Alan Cooper, Bill Thomas, Ian Thomson and Paul Van Rijsewijk, not an easy task when you knew these men personally. A noticeable quaver

came into Peter's voice at the end of the eulogies. Even after 45 years it had a definite effect on him and all of us.

I read the Roll of Honour, naming each man, Vietnam and Post Vietnam, some 42 of our own in number. A high price to pay but a job well done. Our numbers are thinning so we must look after each other.

Phil Mount did an excellent job of delivering the scripture reading, followed by Chaplain Harding giving the prayers. He performed well considering his wife had had an accident and was in hospital.

Catherine Lambert and Rosemary Bilak sang the *Prayer of Consecration of the RAR*, as always performing an outstanding job. The solemn events which followed had a tear in many an eye. His Excellency laid a wreath on behalf of the SA, Hori placed a wreath in remembrance of those of our company who had paid the Supreme Sacrifice and those who have since passed. The Butchart family and Doug Cooper laid wreaths on behalf of their loved ones Jock Butchart and Alan Cooper. These are the moments which remind us of our own mortality and how precious our lives are.

The placing of poppies in the wreaths, held on this occasion by Ceremonial Officer RAR Association and ex 3 RAR and 9 RAR Adrian Craig and Army Museum curator and ex 3 RAR Doug Patterson, is always emotional especially with Pipe Major Des Ross playing the lament during the poppy presentation.

- Ken Duthie

Combined commemoration service



Below is the final section of the address given by Mike Dennis at the combined commemoration service for the Battle of Long Tan.

In introducing his comments, Mike said:

I must acknowledge the assistance the RARSA historian LtCol Fred Fairhead (Rtd) and highlight his recent work a Potted History of The RAR in Vietnam "A Duty Done" available on the RARSA website for viewing and downloading.

There is no doubt the ferocious action in the Long Tan Rubber Plantation on 18 August 1966 was, like a number of other actions fought by battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment in the Vietnam War, a close run thing.

The battle was a major defeat for the enemy Main Force elements in Phuoc Tuy Province, which withdrew to bases distant from the populated area while the main local presence, ie D445 VC Battalion, repaired to the Minh Dam Secret Zone in the Long Hai Hills. This allowed the Task Force to consolidate its defences at the Nui Dat base, which was never to be threatened again by main force regimental size forces and the Australian presence in Phuoc Tuy Province would never again be seriously challenged.

Vietnam was a war where soldiers of the Royal Australian Regiment's nine Battalions were, in the main, as well trained and led, especially at Section and Platoon level, of any that had deployed on operational duties.

With the wisdom of hindsight however, whilst recognizing the high levels of battlefield survivability achieved in that training, sadly this was not the case for preparing individuals in how to deal with the psychological consequences of combat; indeed, such training was virtually nonexistent.

What was missing was how to deal with the effects on individuals of what perhaps could be termed "the staring death in the face experience" - be it in the first moments of the contact front with the staccato fire of

AK 47s, the splintering and explosive mayhem of RPGs and the targeting of our machine gunners the instant they responded; or it might have been the savage and intense explosion from a triggered M16 mine or a larger one command detonated under an armoured vehicle, both resulting in a pile of human horror; or it might have been just the fact you knew the enemy was around or, you were aware of being in mine or booby trap infested country.



Besides the lack of pre-combat preparation there was also little if any clinical post operational counselling- and it was worse for the National Serviceman.

These young men were forced to take the Queen's Shilling, were then exposed to the somewhat dehumanizing Army training process designed to prepare men for the rigours and discipline of infantry combat; they were then subjected to various levels of trauma in Vietnam and finally, with their duty done, were treated appallingly by the Army which basically cut them adrift into a civilian environment that had become increasingly hostile towards the war. No counselling was provided and no apologies were given. We should have great admiration for the men that came through those unhappy circumstances relatively unscathed.

While it is right that we remember those that fell in battle such as at Long Tan and comrades who have since passed on, it is also right that we do not forget those who returned, and continue to return, with physical or psychological damage from war related experiences be they from Korea, Borneo, Vietnam, East Timor, Iraq or presently Afghanistan. I suggest to you also, that attendance at commemoration services like this one today, honouring as it does those who participated in the Battle of Long Tan, does provide an opportunity for veterans and their families and friends to draw closer together into the proud family that is the Royal Australian Regiment Association. An Association which is determined to provide Infantry inspired solutions to the problems of Infantrymen like Trojans Trek for those who have served in the Battalions of the Regiment.

Battle of Long Tan - 18 August 2013



Photos: Bruce and Penelope Forster



Photo: Leon Pavich



Photos above and right : Leon Pavich



50th Infantry Battalion AIF



Memorial Dedication



On Tuesday 13 August 2013 a Memorial Dedication was held on the Pathway of Honour to acknowledge the Officers and Soldiers of the 50th Infantry Battalion AIF.

Adrian Craig, the Ceremonial Officer of 3 RAR SA Association, worked tirelessly over the previous months with other ESOs to ensure the memorial dedication took place. Thanks from many quarters are given to acknowledge their efforts.

Setting up of the site began at 0900 hrs including placement of the 50th Inf Bn AIF banner, seating and music equipment and rehearsals enacted. Rostrevor College students assisted.

The MC was Neil Nichols of 3 RAR SA Association. At 1045 hrs, Association Vice President Ken Duthie met His Excellency, Mr Hieu Van Le, AO, the Governor's Deputy, and his aide, Protocol Officer Lauren Baker, at the Pathway of Honour. Ken escorted His Excellency and Ms Baker to the dedication site where they were introduced to Brigadier Laurie Lewis, AM, (Retd) who introduced them to the official guests.

They included the Honourable Michael Atkinson MP, the Speaker of the House of Assembly and representing the State Government of SA; the Honourable Steven Marshall MP, the State Leader of the Opposition and State Shadow Minister for Veteran's Affairs; Mr Steen Holm Jensen, the Danish Consul for SA; Ms Kathleen Winger, step grand daughter of VC recipient, Pte Jorgen Christian Jensen, who was awarded for action at Noreuil, France, 2 April 1917; Mr Bill Denny AM, Director for the Minister for Veterans Affairs; Mr Douglas Strain, RFD, President of the 10th Infantry Battalion AIF and co-host; Maj. Gen. Neil Wilson, AM, RFD, (Retd), Regimental Colonel the RSAR; Maj James Kmet, Operations Officer, 10/27 Battalion RSAR; Colonel Steven Larkins, Vice President the Returned and Services League; and Colonel Roger Freeman, OAM, RFD, (Retd) author *Hungerford's Hungry Half Hundred*.

His Excellency was escorted to his seat and the Vice Regal Salute was played.

Host Ken Duthie gave the welcome address, co-host Douglas Strain read the history of the 50th Inf Bn AIF. and Maj James Kmet gave the scripture reading.

Rostrevor College Head Prefect Matthew Farmer read

the moving poem *To Tom* written by Cpl J.P. O'Donnell, brother of Pte Tom O'Donnell, KIA 28 September 1917.

Katherine Lambert and the Terrace Singers sang *In Flanders Fields* and *Lead Kindly Light*.

Chaplain David Prior, 7 RAR (Mech), read the opening prayer, His Excellency, Mr Hieu Van Le, AO, unveiled the memorial to the 50th Inf Bn AIF, and Chaplain Prior dedicated and blessed the Memorial. David White, 3 RAR SA Association Membership Officer was responsible for the music.

His Excellency placed the first wreath against the memorial, followed by another by Ken Duthie and Douglas Strain. Representatives from the State Government, Veteran's Affairs, service and ex-service organisations followed. For the placing of the commemorative red poppies, Douglas Strain and Ken Duthie picked up two of the wreaths as the 175 plus in attendance placed the poppies in the wreaths. The wreaths were then replaced at the memorial.

The bugler from 10/27th Bn RSAR played the *Last Post*, always emotive. Neville Cooper, Purchasing Officer, 3 RAR SA Association, read *The Ode* followed by a minute's silence, *Lest We Forget* and the *Rouse*.

Chaplain David Prior gave the benediction and the National Anthem was sung by those in attendance.

Neil thanked His Excellency for his attendance and the serving and ex-serving members of the Defence Forces and the public for their attendance and support.

A special thanks go to the Rostrevor College students. These young men are a credit to themselves, their families and to college. They assisted with car parking on Torrens Parade Ground, foot traffic and everything else they were asked to do.

Thanks also go to Sandra Craig and Margaret Cooper distributing poppies and service booklets, and Katherine Lambert and the Terrace Singers.

Recognition was long overdue of the 50th Infantry Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, the Officers and Soldiers who served in this unit, with a large contingent of South Australians, and more so, the Officers and Soldiers that paid the supreme sacrifice in the defence of their mates and their country. It is our responsibility to remember and acknowledge our own, irrespective of the conflict!

- Ken Duthie

FROM THE BATTALIONS

6 RAR

6 RAR Association members and friends got together at the Hackney Hotel on November 14 and enjoyed an excellent meal, jolly company and a damn good evening. Those who attended are seen donating to the new Remembrance Day crosses which were put out for the first time this Remembrance Day, in honour of our the two South Australians from the 6 RAR (Vietnam and Afghanistan). \$140 were raised - an excellent job.

Rod Graham



9 RAR

9 RAR's Mrs Ceremonial, Sandra Craig, standing alongside the 9 RAR Memorial after she had placed commemorative red poppies for the Battalion's 35 war dead on its Birthday on November 13.



3 RAR

The Association has had a busy few months with major activities including:

- 13 Aug. Dedication of Memorial for 50th Battalion AIF.
- 30 Aug. Lunch at the Hackney Hotel.
- 6 Oct. Maryang San Commemorative Service.
- 1 Nov. Country Meeting at Pt Pirie RSL.
- 5 Nov. Commemorative Service to mark the 45th Anniversary of the death LCPL Tony Quigley; the last man killed on the Battalion's first tour of Vietnam.
- Fundraising sausage sizzles on roughly a monthly basis.

We will be holding our Christmas Party on the Battalion's Birthday on Sat 23 Nov 2013.

2014 is the 50th Anniversary of the Battalion's tour of Borneo and we will be conducting activities to mark this.

As well as socialising, there's the opportunity to exercise at the club three days a week.

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: Pilates and yoga with **Leticia Anderson**. Mondays 7pm and Wednesdays and Thursdays 9.30am.

Tuesday and Thursday: Karate with Sensei **Carl Driesener**, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6pm to 8pm. All ages welcome.

Tuesday: Exercise with **Neil Warren**. A personal fitness trainer, Neil specialises in group fitness and personal training. His qualifications include Certificate III & IV in Fitness, advanced boxing for fitness instructor, Level 2 qualified kettlebells instructor and senior first aid and CPR.

Neil says: "I believe it is highly important to train using correct technique. So when we train we minimise the chance of injury. "Fitness is about training our bodies to be prepared for everything that life throws at us."

www.adelaidekettlebells.com.au



5/7th This delightful photo of 5/7th Battalion marching in North Terrace on Anzac Day this year was inadvertently not included in the August edition of Infantryman - so here it is. Photo: Bruce Forster

FROM THE BATTALIONS

9 RAR

AGM AND DINNER

Fifty-three Veterans, NOK and families enjoyed the recent AGM and dinner at the Burnside RSL catered for by Rob's Roast. Patron **Laurie Lewis** conducted the business and the committee was re-elected. As President, I reported on activities for 2013 – including commemorative services, Anzac Day, supporting Trojan's Trek, the 'family' traditions, and welcomed those who recently returned from a tour to Vietnam. The guest speaker was unavoidably detained so at short notice 9 RAR's **Haydn Madigan**, President of Port Pirie RSL, gave an update on the Huey Helicopter project. Haydn entertained us with many humorous and exasperating anecdotes about the journey this project has taken him on. In spite of the bureaucratic speed-humps along the way, Haydn's enthusiasm and commitment to this venture is admirable.

Thanks to Michelle for sharing her thoughts about visiting Vietnam with her sister Jackie, where their father Bruno was KIA on 12 July 1969.

2014 ARRANGEMENTS

Thanks to Michelle for sharing her thoughts about visiting Vietnam with her sister Jackie, where their father Bruno was KIA on 12 July 1969.

5th January	Sgt J.M. Duroux (Derrick Gardens)
7th January	Cpl A.W. Graham (Stirling North and Garden of Remembrance)
18th January	Pte R.A. Phillips (Murray Bridge)
19th January	Cpl H.R. Musicka (RSL Wall, Centennial Park) and Sgt J.R. Cock (Derrick Gdns)
20th January	Pte B.J. Plane (Ardrossan)
14th February	L/Cpl P.A. Chant (RSL Wall, Centennial Park)
19th February	Hat Dich service, Pathway of Honour (NB: Change of date to previous years)
5th March	Pte G.J. Scales (Derrick Gardens/ Seymour, Victoria, 2014, during a proposed trip. Please contact Warren for details.)
6th July	L/Cpl R.J. Abraham (Whyalla)
12th July	Cpl B.A.J. Adamczyk (Catholic Section, Centennial Park/commemorative plaque also in Garden of Remembrance)

48TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION, MELBOURNE, 13-15 NOVEMBER, 2015

Registrations will open in February, 2014. see <http://www.9rar.org.au/>

9 RAR TOUR BOOK REPRINT

see <http://www.9rarqld.org/>

The 9 RAR Tour book was first published in 1992. The editorial team from Queensland worked tirelessly for many years to have this written record published. The book was launched by the first Commanding Officer of the 9th Battalion A.L. (Alby) Morrison in September 1992 in the lines of the 8th/9th Battalion.

The book has been sold out for a great number of years and after many enquiries it was decided to examine the feasibility of reprinting the Tour Book. After determining



Port Pirie RSL President Haydn Madigan reporting on the Huey Helicopter Project at 9 RAR's AGM and dinner.

that the original material was never kept, it was decided to have the original Tour Book scanned and then re-published as an exact replica of the original book. This has now been completed.

The Tour Book Reprint has all the original text and photographs together with the "Omissions" pages that were published in the "9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment - Proud to Serve" by B. Vickery AND a 10-page "Index of Names" showing the names of the 9 RAR members and 9 RAR family members who are mentioned in the Tour Book.

The cost of the 9 RAR Tour Book Reprint is \$60 each.

The postage and handling rates are quoted as from Brisbane: Brisbane area - 1 or 2 books is \$10. All other areas including interstate - 1 or 2 books is \$15, three or more books to all areas is priced according to weight and distance.

To purchase the 9 RAR Tour Book Reprint there are two ways of doing this:

1. ON LINE: Click on the Tour Book Order Form, fill out the details on line and click "submit" and then do a Direct Deposit of fees OR send a cheque or money order by mail or
2. MAIL: Click on the Tour Book Order Form PDF to download a PDF copy, fill it out and then mail the Order Form with a cheque or money order OR mail the Order Form and do a Direct Deposit of fees.

Payment: Direct Deposit: BSB: 803 205 Account Number: 20365969 (Defence Bank) Reference: Ensure to include your name and State. If you make a Direct Deposit please ensure you fill out the Order Form on line or mail the Order Form back ASAP so they can be linked together. Make cheques and money orders payable to Nine RAR Association (Qld Br) and post to 9 RAR Association (QLD), PO Box 122, Stafford City QLD 4053.

David Stacey
President 9 RAR

2 RAR

Tom Young, National Reunion Coordinator, represented SA at the recent national 2 RAR Association conference and reunion at Tweed Heads. Long-standing secretary **Rick Hollingdrake** OAM retired as secretary and **Gordon Hurford** AM was appointed in Rick's place. The Battalion was recently successful in winning gold at the Cambrian Patrol competition where some 57 units from around the world contested the internationally-acclaimed competition centred around a military patrolling exercise that makes its participating units cover a 50 mile (60km) course in less than 48 hrs while performing numerous types of military exercises placed throughout the rugged Cambrian Mountains and swamp lands of mid-Wales. The Battalion won silver in 2012. We continue to work towards the Association's National Reunion in Adelaide during ANZAC 2014. Enquiries regarding the reunion can made to National Reunion Coordinator Tom Young (08) 8269 4171 or tjlyoung@hotmail.com

- **Mal Allan**

Justice done: UK-born veteran now eligible for passport



Trevor Sharland, ex 5 PI B Coy 3RAR Vietnam 1971, swore the oath of allegiance and finally received his Citizenship Certificate from the Mayor of The City of Tea Tree Gully, **Miriam Smith**, at a ceremony at the Modbury Council Chambers on Wednesday 13 November 2013. Jock O'Connell, David Lean, David White and Lex Grant were among the group there to support Trevor.

This was the culmination of a submission by **Bill Denny** and **Paul Sykes** of Veterans SA to the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Citizenship to request that Trevor be granted Australian Citizenship previously denied to him because of an adverse police reports in 1986 and 1988.

Luckily **Gary Maynard**, ex B Coy 3RAR Vietnam 1971, picked up the comment below on Facebook on July 13 and passed it on to **David White** and it went to Veterans SA which finally resulted in the ceremony on November 13. This is Trevor's story of utter frustration and disgust.

Gallipoli ballot open - closes 31 January 2014

The Gallipoli 2015 ballot will close on <http://www.gallipoli2015.dva.gov.au/Pages/ballot.aspx> at 00:01 hrs AEDT at 11:59 hrs on 31 January 2014. Advice of the outcome of the ballot will be provided to individuals in March 2014, giving those successful in the ballot around 12 months to make and pay for their travel arrangements.

Debbie Booth

Assistant Director Business & Governance
Cadet, Reserve and Employer Support Division
Ph: (02) 6127 4626 Fax: (02) 6127 4650

The governments of Turkey, Australia and New Zealand have agreed that the maximum number of people who can attend the Anzac Day commemorations at Gallipoli in 2015 is 10,500 people. There will be 8000 places available to Australians, 2000 available to New Zealanders and 500 for official representatives from all countries involved in the Gallipoli campaign. Widows of World War I veterans need not apply and will be invited separately by the government. To register for the Australian ballot, one must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident and aged at least 18 on, or before, April 25, 2015.

Trevor Sharland from Facebook

goodbye everyone,i came to Australia from England when i was 10yrs old on my parents passport,i got drafted into the army in 1970,sent to vietnam infantry combat soldier with 3 rar,wia at the battle of long kahn,sent home to aus,finished my time then on my discharge date i was discharged medically unfit and sent back to the timber mill that i worked for before being drafted,last year i was diagnosed with prostate cancer so i thought i would get my australian citizenship,should be very easy as i now receive a war pension for my wounds,im a tpi,and i vote,no such luck,i had to line up with the boat people at the end of the queue,long story short i have been denied because in 1986&1988 i was charged with drunk driving,so now im going to MAKE THE DICKHEADS DEPORT ME

This dreadful decision by the Australian Government has finally been rectified and Trevor can now apply for a passport and visit the UK where he was born.

- Peter Scott



Top: Trevor receives his Australian Citizenship certificate from Tea Tree Gully Mayor Miriam Smith.

Above: Trevor Sharland 5PI, centre, receives congratulations on becoming an Australian citizen from, from left, David Lean 8 PI, Lex Grant, David White 4PI and John (Jock) O'Connell 6 PI. All 3RAR Vietnam 1971, except Lex who served in 3RAR in Woodside.

Tickets will be issued as double passes – with successful applicants allowed to choose one person to join them at the Gallipoli ceremony.

Of the seats available to Australians in the ballot, about 2000 will be reserved for descendants of soldiers, the veterans' community, and high school students and their chaperones.

Australia and New Zealand run three commemorative services at Gallipoli on Anzac Day every year. The dawn service is followed by an Australian memorial service at Lone Pine, and a New Zealand service at Chunuk Bair.



View of the site where the Dawn Service is held.

Experiencing difficulties with medical specialist care?

Some of you will have received this material earlier and I do apologise for sending it twice if that is the case. I've received some very helpful replies on behalf of serving members but I do need several more examples. I do not require great detail but an outline of events and the locations will suffice. Please re-read as the request has altered slightly
- Thanks

Dear Reader,

I urgently require your assistance in a matter of some professional ADF medical importance.

As you may be aware Defence has sub-contracted its medical specialist work out to a third party provider who has now been in place for some 14 months.

Great misgivings exist among those specialists who are contracted to said provider, the base MOs and the ADF serving members in the day to day workings of this arrangement.

Many specialists have in fact failed to renew their services to ADF members as a result of this managed care arrangement. Significant numbers have been the best practitioners in our country.

I'm to face Defence regarding this matter very soon and need information before Christmas of individual cases where the mechanisms presently in place have proven unsatisfactory when compared with equivalent cases for Worker's Compensation or an ordinary insurance claim

treatments. e.g. excessive delays in consultation time, excessive need to travel, i.e. Darwin to Adelaide to gain care, not satisfied with the consultation results, delays in implementing final treatment, delayed hospital admission or the like.

There's much more to all of this but presently I require just five individual cases of current ADF members or of those less than three months out of the service.

Cases any older will be put down to teething problems of the new arrangements settling into place.

I do not require names or serial numbers. Identification of individuals has been a reason for the lack of complaints despite the unhappiness.

Without these particular case examples as bullets Defence and the Government will continue to neglect their full medical responsibilities for our ADF members and I do not wish this to continue any longer.

If you wish to email this out among your contacts I'm happy for you to do so.

If you can gain just ONE example and get back to me that would be brilliant. If not, thank you for trying.

Dr Roderick Bain FRCA, FANZCA RAN (Rtd)
(02) 9380 8774 or 0417823937
roderickbain@gmail.com



VAC offers unique opportunity to provide support

It has been a busy year for the Veterans' Advisory Council (VAC). The VAC is a truly representative body chaired by former State Governor Sir **Eric Neal** AC CVO and comprises 16 members, finely balanced by ex-service organisation, conflict, branch of service and rank. Membership extends from a World War II veteran, a former prisoner of war, through to a serving officer recently returned from service in Afghanistan. The RAR Association is represented on the VAC by our Patron, Brigadier **Laurie Lewis** AM (Retd) and President **Michael von Berg** MC.

Many matters considered by the VAC have a particular State relevance. Others have a Federal perspective and it regularly asks the State Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon **Jack Snelling** MP to advocate on behalf of the VAC and the veterans' community to the Federal Government.

The VAC meets regularly and provides advice to the State Government on matters that impact the veterans' community. To give you an example of what the VAC does, these are some of the matters covered at recent meetings:

- Advocacy on behalf of soldiers wounded on active service, who are impacted by adverse tax rulings. This South Australian initiative (RAR Assoc.) will, hopefully, see a major tax impediment levied against our serving soldiers removed.
- The construction and dedication of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial dedicated on Sunday, 10 November, 2013, by Her Excellency the Governor-General on Torrens Parade Ground.
- Advocacy on behalf of former members of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force to ensure they receive exactly the same entitlements as their AIF colleagues.
- An approach was made to the State Government to have the illumination of the commemorative signage on the Northern Expressway improved.
- Clarification sought to reinforce within the ex-service community the law relating to wearing of unofficial medals.

- The Incidence of Suicide in the Defence Community.
- The Torrens Parade Ground Management Plan.
- Consultation with the veterans' community by SA Health via the Veterans Health Advisory Council.
- The DVA's revised approach to research.
- The VAC continued advocacy with the Department of Defence on behalf of the members of the Civilian Surgical and Medical Teams who served in Vietnam.
- The creation of a South Australian Charter for Veterans. The VAC has created a draft Charter that is soon to be considered by State Cabinet.
- Strong individual advocacy to the Federal Government was continued on behalf of two South Australian veterans.
- Communication with the National Archives to ensure regulations concerning release of personal information from veterans' records to ensure privacy concerns were not compromised.
- A VAC proposal was made to the Federal Government for the creation of a medal to be awarded to the NOK of Soldiers Killed on Active Service.
- ANZAC Centenary planning.
- Veterans Pastoral Care Service Proposal.
- The production of the State Ex-Service Commemorative Calendar 2014.
- State proposals to the Federal Government re the Review of Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act.
- Construction of a memorial to Private Tomas Dale, killed in action in Afghanistan on 20 August, 2010.

The VAC continues to provide a unique opportunity for our veterans' community to initiate dialogue, seek advocacy or to request change on behalf of the veterans' community in South Australia.

If you have any questions about the above mentioned subjects or have a matter you'd like to be considered by the VAC, then please get in touch with Laurie Lewis and/or Mike von Berg.

Royal Australian Regiment Association Committee 2013-2014

Patron	Laurie Lewis AM	
	<u>Elected Positions</u>	
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 rwhinnen@bigpond.com.au	0413 189 558
Treasurer	Mike Bevan	0416 106 578
	<u>Appointed by Committee Position</u>	
Webmaster	mikeb3@netspace.net.au	
Manager - Club	Rod Graham rodg2@bigpond.com	0427 977 145
Manager - Ceremonial	Adrian Craig as.craig9rar@bigpond.com	8263 4784
Welfare Officer	Lyn Fisher fishernine@bigpond.co	8371 3090
	<u>Trojan's Trek</u>	
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	<u>Voluntary Positions</u>	
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9 RAR	Adrian Craig as.craig9rar@bigpond.com	8263 4784

RAR (SA) RSL Sub-Branch

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Secretary	Lynn 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

2013-2014 Events

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Please note:

* In 2014 Ladies Nights will now be the 1st Friday each month with a \$10 meal.

* Bar snacks at no cost to members will be provided on all other Fridays.

* From time to time a theme night, i.e. Curry, Greek, Italian, etc, will be held on the 3rd Friday of the month. This will be advertised separately

December

Friday 6	Christmas Function for Members and Guests
Friday 13	Bar Snacks
Friday 20	Bar Snacks

January

Friday 3	Ladies Night (Meal \$10)
Friday 10	Bar Snacks
Friday 17	Bar Snacks
Friday 24	Bar Snacks
Friday 31	

February

Friday 7	Ladies Night (Meal \$10)
Friday 14	Bar Snacks
Friday 21	Bar Snacks
Friday 28	Bar Snacks

March

7	Ladies Night (Meal \$10)
Friday 14	Bar Snacks
Friday 21	Bar Snacks
Friday 28	Bar Snacks

April

4	Ladies Night (Meal \$10)
11	Bar Snacks
18	Bar Snacks
25	ANZAC Day - closed

May

Friday 2	Ladies Night (Meal \$10)
Friday 9	Bar Snacks
Friday 16	Bar Snacks
Friday 23	Bar Snacks
Friday 30	Bar Snacks

When emailing articles and photos for inclusion in *Infantryman*, in the subject line please put Infantryman and then a reference to the topic. i.e. Infantryman Trek, Infantryman Fairgo. Send articles in Word in 10 pt and photos as a jpg with the same reference words as on the article and photo so they can be easily matched up. Bruce and I edit three publications - tagging in this way will help clarify in which publication items and photos are to be included. Thanks.

Penelope Forster
Editor