



INFANTRYMAN

The Journal of the RAR Association SA
Keeping the Spirit Alive

April 2014



Craig Hansen with his wife, Kellie, and their children Tayla, Jayke and Jaudyn. Photo taken at the RARA by Tricia Watkinson, The Advertiser, 7 February 2014 with story by Meagan Dillon of Eastern Courier Messenger.

Welfare fund established after mower cost over subscribed

From Laurie Lewis, AM

Craig Hansen was a sergeant sniper serving with 7RAR in Afghanistan, when he was involved in an incident in which an improvised explosive device badly damaged the Bushmaster armoured vehicle in which he was travelling. Craig was severely wounded and was finally medically discharged from the Army on 25 November 2013 because of those wounds.

He purchased a home on a two and a half acre block at Two Wells in SA. Because of the severe nature of his 18 accepted disabilities, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) provided a gardener to cut his grass weekly. Because he wanted to do as much as possible himself and at the same time restore his self esteem and self confidence, Craig requested DVA to buy a ride-on mower for him to use instead of providing the gardener who was paid \$150 for each visit. However, due to its current policies DVA was unable to meet Craig's request.

On a visit the Royal Australian Regiment Association's Headquarters at Linden Park, Craig mentioned the situation and his frustration at being unable to do more for his family. The Association immediately determined to establish a fund to purchase a ride-on mower for him. It formed a small team to seek contributions from its members, other ex-service organisations and other veterans to raise the \$2890 necessary to purchase the mower.

The response was very encouraging and it was decided to run a special fund raising event at Linden Park to raise the final \$1300.

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ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANZAC DAY



ANZAC Day - Friday April 25

Dress – Jacket, tie and medals.

ANZAC Day March

Please form up behind the individual Battalion Banners from 0930 hours in Pulteney Street on the corner of North Terrace and Pulteney Street.

Step off about 1015hrs with President Mike von Berg MC and the Regimental Banner leading. Route: North Terrace, right into King William Street, across the King William Street bridge and halt in War Memorial Drive by the Cross of Sacrifice Memorial Gardens.

There will be an "eyes right" at the National War Memorial in North Terrace, The Boer War Memorial on the corner of North Terrace and King William Street by Government House and at the saluting dais by the Torrens Parade Ground.

Please ensure banners are dropped off at the designated collection point after the March. After the March a Service at the Cross of Sacrifice in the nearby Cross Of Sacrifice Memorial, Pennington Gardens at 1100hrs.

ANZAC Day Reunion

Lion Hotel - cnr Jerningham and Melbourne Streets, North Adelaide from 1130 hrs a short walk across the parklands from the end of the March. Lunch and bar facilities. Regimental raffle. Entertainment by the Southern District Pipe Band.

Membership applications and renewals available. Inquiries: Tony Boyce on 0483 1987 699

FROM THE COMMAND

Ongoing commitment anticipated

Our Editor in Chief is giving me hell to write this report to meet the deadline but I was holding off awaiting the result of our State elections, the result which has now been announced.

The purpose of holding off was to thank one side if losing and to welcome the other as a winner irrespective of which side wins or loses.

But as I write this report I would like to congratulate the Government and thank both sides of the political divide for the support this State has shown to veterans and the Armed Forces in general and what is hoped to be an ongoing commitment into the future.

I find the interstate negative comments by journalists and the "beautiful people" of Sydney and Melbourne in particular about South Australia, imbecilic and ignorant. South Australia in so many ways leads the nation, one of them in particular which affects the veteran and serving communities is the State infrastructure which exists to support our veteran and serving community.

It is the only State or Territory in Australia which has a dedicated State Minister for Veterans Affairs; the only State that has a Veterans Advisory Committee, chaired by an independent chair and ex-Governor of South Australia to advise the Minister, who is backed up by a small department and experienced ex-officer heading up that department.

This is unique and although many of the issues which are discussed are the remit of the Federal Government there are many issues at local level which are resolved before they become an issue.

We are very appreciative of the newly re-elected Government for this support. During elections there is

always the fear that what was a good idea by one side of the political divide is dismissed by the other for no other reasons than it was not their idea, but pleasingly the Opposition supported this when they were last in Government and the veteran community and serving members of the ADF will always hopefully have a conduit to express their concerns.

In politics these days it's rare indeed to have bipartisan support for anything but pleasingly in this instance our cause is being supported.

In closing I need to thank the current Government Ministers who have both tackled the role of Veterans Affairs Minister, **Mick Atkinson** and **Jack Snelling**; Mick in his considered conservative and dignified way and Jack in his ebullient, enthusiastic and passionate way of getting the job done, both different but both very effective and appreciated and hopefully Jack will continue on in this role.

Although the Opposition has no executive powers, the Shadow Ministers, **Duncan McFetridge** and **Steven Marshall**, have both been morally supportive and **Martin Hamilton Smith's** counsel as an Association member is always appreciated.

Now the election has been decided let's all knuckle down and get on with the next four years of our lives.

Michael von Berg MC
President



FROM THE SECRETARY

I remind members that the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Australian Regiment Association SA will be held on Sunday July 13 at 1100hrs at the clubrooms, 13 Beatty Street, Linden Park. Light lunch will be available afterwards. The attendance of all members is requested. Everyone will be made most welcome. All positions will be vacant and up for election. Check the website rarasa.org.au for nomination forms and updates.

We are in dire need of new blood. You will be most welcome to nominate for any position you feel capable to contribute to your association. I welcome enquiries from those interested in the position of Secretary. With ANZAC Day upon us, I urgently call for volunteers to assist with our activities of updating and renewing membership at The Lion Hotel.

I will close with the following. On Sunday 2 March I had a telephone call from Col **Peter Scott** DSO (ret) CO of 3RAR second tour SVN. Peter is always informal and friendly. He told me he would be attending the



RARA (SA) cross to lay a tribute to two diggers he lost on that day. I can only say that it cut me sharper than any knife to realise that with command came humility and everlasting love for those who made the supreme sacrifice under your command. I did not know them but I stood to attention at 1100hrs. Thank you, Peter, from a cynical old conscript.

Robert Whinnen

A Pleasant Numismatic Surprise for The Baron

Some months ago, after reading an article about service medals, I decided to have mine insured as a part of our household policy. What would they be worth in an assessment by an insurance underwriter and a subsequent claim? I had absolutely no idea nor did I really care because I would never use them as currency but I did need a ball park figure for the policy.

In addition due to the uniqueness of the medals and their history I decided to have them valued by a company in the UK which specialises in numismatic valuations.

The valuation put on the set as a whole was \$60,000 plus which absolutely floored me. More importantly it made me realise I needed to exercise more tender loving care instead of simply leaving them on my jacket on a chair in a pub on Anzac Day when half cut or just throwing them in the bottom drawer at home after an event.

I would never suggest a fellow veteran pinching any medals but there are other types who float around a pub on Anzac Day, some who may not respect or consider the consequences in pinching someone's medals either as a joke, financial gain or poseur value and that's what worried me.

I was encouraged by our Association numismatic expert and creative guru, **Ken Duthie** to have a replica set made up which he very kindly did for me. So in future when you see me attired in ceremonial mode it will be with the full complement of replica medals.

The high valuation was a total surprise because to the story behind the medals and the almost unbelievable sequence of events - but don't fall off your chairs laughing. It's almost a classic Monty Python skit and if I wasn't personally involved I would never have believed it.

In Vietnam I received a call from my much beloved CO **John Warr** and Adjutant **Peter Isaacs** to go up and see him at BHQ. For me that meant only two things - as Platoon Commander of Recce Platoon, another stint in the weeds or me, or one of my diggers, was in the poo. Again!

You can imagine my surprise when the CO told me I was up there to be naturalised. Huh? "This is a joke sir right?" "No, Mick, we have discovered you are a German citizen and the Government has requested you be naturalised urgently".

"Urgent" would have to be an understatement. Super critical I would have thought, being a German citizen, with a Queen's Commission, fighting in a war where Germany was neutral and had no involvement except a hospital ship in Saigon. The CO, in his laid back laconic way with a twinkle in his eye, asked me if I spoke English, would I swear my allegiance to the Queen and would I observe the laws of the land?

Well, English was a bit of a giveaway, swearing my allegiance to the Queen I had already done twice before, on recruitment and commissioning and laws of the land was a given. I'm a triple allegiance accredited citizen now!

The naturalisation certificate, with a bit of Nui Dat mud on the back, was signed by the Sir Hubert Opperman MP

as Immigration Minister (also a Kraut) on 23 November 1966 and John Warr as CO on 2 February 1967. These dates are very relevant as to the value of the medals as this intriguing situation unfolds. A somewhat unusual sequence of events:-

- Arrived in Australia as a minor on my mother's passport 22 January 1951
Mother naturalised 1955. I assumed I was automatically also naturalised as still on her passport.
Enlisted in the Army January 1962
'Queen's Commission granted Portsea December 1965
- Arrived South Vietnam 19 April 1966

- Cited and recommended for Imperial Honour 17 October 1966
- Immigration Minister signed naturalisation certificate 23 November 1966
- Lt Col John Warr naturalised me 2 February 1967.

Based on the above dates I was recruited and commissioned as a German; recommended for an Imperial Award as a German; the accompanying Vietnam Medal 1964-1973 (1 day) and the South Vietnamese Service Medal 1960 (six months) also awarded as a German.

Unbeknown to me this put the cat among the pigeons in Canberra and caused considerable anxiety for some diplomats and immigration officials but it all ended up well because I had never ever considered myself as anything other than as an Australian.

There was no "zis" or "zat" in my strine and I got rid of the "lederhosen" when I was about seven, played rugby, surfed and was as Aussie as any bloke in the front bar and had never ever thought of myself as anything else. But as I discovered you need to be an official Aussie!

So there you have it. If anyone else is worried or concerned about the value of their medals in general or in particular if there is an interesting story behind them, have them valued and get a set of replicas. The monetary and sentimental value is simply too great a legacy to lose for your children and grandchildren and their children.

- Michael von Berg

Ride-on mower sets off welfare fund

From Page 1

The afternoon was well attended by many members of the RAR Association, representatives of other ex-service organisations, members of 7RAR, some of whom had served with Craig, and a number of people who had given generously of their time and support, including Graham Cornes, himself an ex member of 7RAR who served in the battalion in Vietnam. The afternoon was a great success. Not only was the \$1300 raised, but an additional \$2500. With Craig's agreement, the additional money was handed over to the RAR Association to be held in a Welfare Fund to assist veterans and their families.



Your club, your input, you're welcome



Graham Cornes and John Wilson.



RARA SA Vice President Mike Dennis, Craig Hansen and his Son Jayke, and RARA SA President Michael von Berg. Left: Michael hands the cheque to Craig.



Ride-on mower fundraiser

Donors and representatives of DVA, DFWA and ADSO and many others interested in the welfare of veterans attended a fundraiser on January 31 in support of obtaining a ride-on mower for Craig Hansen ex 7 RAR and Afghanistan and East Timor service. Craig is now happily mowing his acreage at Two Wells.



President Michael von Berg and RARA SA Patron Laurie Lewis with Craig and Kellie Hansen with their children, from left, Jaudyn, Jayke and Tayla..



Ann Dennis, Minnie Dunlop, Barb Featherby and Jenny Mummery



Top: Laurie Lewis, Ed Czerwinski, Mick Mummery and Jim Fisher.



Above and left: Some of the 7 RAR members who supported the fundraiser.



Your club, your input, you're welcome



Tale told by grand uncle

Left: John Schumann reads his new book to his grand nieces and nephews, (from left) Joel Schneider, 7, Angus Furness, 7, Zoe Furness, 9, and Alexis Thiele, 3.

You're welcome at club activities

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday:

WEA instructor **Letitia**

Anderson holds four gentle sessions a week in yoga, pilates and sculpt. Sessions are on Mondays at 7pm and Wednesdays at 9.30am and 7pm and Thursdays at 9.30am. Further information: Letitia on 0409 918 720.

Tuesday:

Personal fitness trainer **Neil Warren** specialises in group fitness and personal training. Lessons \$10 with the first two lessons free. Further information www.adelaidekettlebells.com.au

Tuesday and Thursday:

Learning self defence tactics offers fitness and confidence at classes at the clubrooms on Tuesdays and Thursdays with Sensei **Carl Driesener**. Classes run from 6pm to 8pm, with a youngsters lesson at 6pm. Men and women of all ages welcome. Further information Carl on 0419 842 325.

Club hosts book launch

The Royal Australian Regiment Association hosted the book launch for *I was only 19* singer-songwriter **John Schumann's** book of the same name on Thursday February 27. Guests were quite a different group of people who usually gather at the club. There were teachers, artists, editors, illustrators and children - the list when on and on. Association members prepared and served finger food. A long queue formed when John announced he would sign the books that were sold. *Right: Club Manager Rod Graham receives a plaque from John in appreciation of the club's support.*



LADIES NIGHT, Friday 14 March, 2014 - OUTSTANDING

One word, OUTSTANDING. I had to put pen to paper, being a regular attendee at the RAR Club, especially Ladies Night meals. I must congratulate our Secretary, Bob Whinnen, on his wild Duck cooking skills. We had Teal Ragu, served with mash potato and greens (I believe Teal is a freshwater duck, correct me if I am wrong, Bob), Roast Black Duck with roasted potatoes done in duck fat, yum, and greens. For the non-duck eaters there was Aldinga turkey (a little dry, Rod G was under pressure). The duck was impressive and would easily take out first prize in any cooking contest. Then there were the sweets - Michelle's terrific trifle and Linda's lovely flourless orange cake plus another delicious fruit cake all accompanied with fresh thick cream. Those folk and members who have not attended a Ladies Night are missing out on a wonderful cheap meal, as the above meal cost \$10 a head; where else would one get a meal of such high standard.

- **Converted wild duck eater Lynn Graham**

Post Note: Coming from five generations of hunters I am continually annoyed by the anti-hunting lobby because frankly they are

talking through their rear end. It is and has been a known fact for centuries that hunters are the best environmentalists. Hunters are not the violent, gun-loving, land-degrading, animal-hating people the anti-hunting lobby would like us to believe. I know many hunters who greatly respect the animal and value the conservation of our pristine and unique SA surroundings.

I haven't hunted since my return from Vietnam for personal not anti-hunting or environmental reasons. That is my choice as it is the choice of the responsible hunter foragers of this nation to do what they and many others have done for centuries. I may not shoot any more but I give the fish a hell of a going over but never over the bag limit or under legal size.

Surely that is what this is all about. Hunt and fish responsibly and have a lot of fun doing it. More importantly our hunters and fishermen in our Association at various times throughout the year provide game and seafood which grace our tables and do justice to any epicurean table and we are so thankful for that, Bob and Spike!

- **Michael von Berg**

TROJAN'S TREK UPDATE

Is outdoor peer support valuable?

By Ms Kendall Bird

In embarking on my Masters' thesis; an evaluation of Trojan's Trek, I wasn't sure what I was going to find when looking beyond the positive verbal testimonies. I have been reminded that effecting change to one's life when you're suffering; is deeper, more meaningful and more complex than just receiving one type of quick therapy. The fundamental question was: "Is outdoor, remote, peer support a valuable adjunct to therapy for veterans?" It appears, quite a lot.

Studies in the USA have found that veterans mentoring veterans is more meaningful and carries more weight than mentoring among non-veterans. In addition, this form of mentoring maintains veteran engagement and increases their access to other mental health services. The USA, Canada and the UK all have peer-based services for veterans in some form, and in Canada this approach is integrated into the Veterans' National Health Services.

Having completed my thesis using results from the men who participated in South Australia's Trojan's Trek, I found there was a substantial shift and sustained improvement in their self-reported mental health and wellbeing (depression, anxiety, stress, life satisfaction, self-efficacy) maintained even two months after completing the Trek. In general, the veterans commenced the trek with extremely low wellbeing and

something meaningful. And if it means one more veteran taking that step to seek more help, one less suicide, one more veteran who bridges that transition into finding ways to have a meaningful life post-military with a little less mental pain and panic, then it's an approach to watch evolve and spread as an adjunct to other therapies. As one participant quoted: 'Really, what some of us have done is put into practice a lot of concepts our medical practitioners have been talking to us about.'

* * *

Kendall (pictured) presented the findings of her study entitled 'Contemporary Veterans' Experience of a Peer Outdoor Support Therapy (POST) Program' at the Australasian Military Medicine Association National Conference in Adelaide

on 2 Nov 2013. The Abstract will be published in the Proceedings from the conference in the next edition of the Journal of Military and Veterans' Health (JMVH). The full research article and results are due to be published in a Special Edition on Australian Mental Health early in 2014, with a review of POST programs approved to be published in the Journal of Military and Veterans' Health. Kendall is a Provisional Psychologist currently completing her Masters of Psychology (Clinical) at the University of South Australia.

Further information is available from
Moose Dunlop on moose@trojanstrek.com



left with their satisfaction with life and anxiety the same as non-military people. Now that's impressive, this is very significant, I thought.

I was also privileged to access the participant's journals which were completed while they were on the trek. On reading these, it became clear to me that change happened for these men because they were 'immersed' for six days with their peers. In addition, informal outdoor activities added to formal peer mentoring sessions strengthened the outcomes. What is vital was the shared opportunities to apply skills and self-reflection and feel understood by others in not only what was experienced in the past, but in looking forward to how they viewed the future.

While there will be criticisms and pitfalls to peer support, when well-managed and structured there's something very promising about this approach; something real,

Female trek on the books

The decision to conduct a pilot female version of the Trojan's Trek in 2014 is based on a long held opinion of the trek staff that returned women have, by and large, been ignored by many organisations which provide advice and assistance following military service.

Since the idea was floated on the website the response from many women has reinforced that view. Add to that the admirable female tendency to get on with life, and the ingredients contributing to being overlooked are present. The Foundation recognises that women now undertake virtually all military roles and they have therefore been subjected to the same stresses as the men. There are however differences, both psychological and physiological, which will predicate against a one size fits all program for both.

It is to this end that we seek input, especially from women with appropriate military or other experience who can contribute to the development of a program for females. The trek dates are Sunday to Friday September 21 to 26. Attendance is free ex-Adelaide, although travel assistance is available in some cases.

The trek aim and objectives for the male version are contained in the 2013 Report on the website. The female objectives will probably reflect these.



Governor's surprise visit

The 2013 trekkers were surprised and pleased to receive a visit from the Governor of SA. He arrived late on the third afternoon and spent the night and most of the next day with the trekkers.

He was clearly very interested in the program and took time to speak with each of the participants. They reported on his genuine personal interest and it was observed that he took particular note of the details of one of the soldiers whose injuries were receiving less than ideal treatment.



Successful veterans' river bank support walk

It was a beautiful day for a walk when more than 200 supporters gathered on the banks of the Torrens Lake opposite the Torrens Parade Ground for the third Veterans' Support Walk on 26 October 2013.

With 20 sponsor logos emblazoned on their shirts, they set off on the word of Graham Cornes.

Among the anxious dogs and striding mob was Liz Scarce, Ian Kelly and friends whom I had not seen for some considerable time.

Peter Goers provided encouragement to the walkers and the sausage sizzle team from 9 RAR.

At the completion of the walk the raffle was drawn, the BIG TV going to a very happy John O'Shannesy with its smaller cousin won by Greg Hallam, the trek paramedic who had joined us from Settle in Victoria.

The Dulux voucher was won by another lucky punter who remains nameless.

After coffee and a yarn the group wandered over to the parade ground for the DVA Health Expo. I extend my sincere thanks to you all for your support of the program.

Moose Dunlop OAM



Rotarians continue support

Adelaide Rotary Club may well boast of the fine record which the club has earned supporting community projects. And the work continues, in this case providing financial support to Trojan's Trek Incorporated.

Above is a photo of the Adelaide club president **Frank O'Neil** handing over a \$10,000 cheque to the director of Trojan's Trek, **Moose Dunlop OAM**. Moose reported that the funds would be used to conduct a female version of the trek in 2014. He said he and the staff had been most encouraged by the response to the idea from servicewomen past and present, and that this would certainly be an Australian first if not a world first in peer support delivery.

'Twas the season of goodwill



Above: Vegetable grower Thu Do, Alliance Democracy Freedom for Vietnam President, proudly displays his cherry tomatoes to, from left, Ray Vadeikis, Charles Sturt councillor Oahn Nguyen, Di Lewis and past President of the Vietnamese Veterans Association.



Vicki Chapman, MP for Bragg, with John Wilson and Pipe Major Des Ross.



Senator Alex Gallacher and his wife, Paola, holding a copy of Infantryman.



Entertaining themselves under the Christmas tree were Christopher Vlahos, 7, and his sister, Leia, 9, son and daughter of Taylor MP Leesa Vlahos, and Michael Clarke, 7, son of Charles Sturt councillor Oahn Nguyen.



Pipe Major Des Ross, wearing his new regalia purchased by the RARA, piped before the Ode



Ann Dennis, Ruth Devine, and Helen Adamson, president of Partners of Veterans SA.



Below: Club Historian Ken Duthie chats with Leesa Vlahos, MP for Taylor, about his display.



RARA President Michael von Berg with Sir Eric Neale and Bill Wallace, 6 RAR.



Ian Kelly, Keith Bleechmore and John Cadd.



It took a few minutes to discover the winner of the weekly members draw finalised for 2013 but it was a very excited Kay Vadeikis who won \$500. Her husband, Ray, a 3 RAR committee man, was on hand to share the joy.



From left: Ed Czerwinski, Tony Boyce, Membership Officer and official computer/printer problem solver, and Treasurer Mike Bevan.



Paola Gallacher, wife of Senator Alex Gallacher, Robert and Linda Whinnen, Ed Czerwinski and Doug Frusher.



Bob Whelan, chef extraordinaire Colin Abel, Neil Nichols and Ray Vadeikis.

We are what we think part 2 – “Awareness”

Most of us know when we are unhappy, angry or sad, but many times we struggle to understand why we feel the way we do.

Awareness is the first step towards discovering what is going on in our lives.

Now while I haven't deployed OS (long story, don't ask), I did spend a year in India from 1990 to 1991 when I was training to be a Padre. Nothing I have done since has come close to that experience, not even caring for people at the Royal Adelaide Hospital who were dying of cancer, old age or trauma.

Where this becomes relevant is that while on Talisman Sabre in 2011 I found myself having a flash back from India. I felt immersed into all the emotional and physical fatigue and despair that typified my experience. Obviously I couldn't allow the emotions to overwhelm me so I got out my note book and jotted down the following.

Firstly I asked myself:

What are the **PROBLEMS**? Tired, late nights, loss of independence.

What **IMPACT** did these have on me? Physical, emotional resulting in a dullness in the way I was thinking.

KEY QUESTION: What choices did I have? “Go AWOL?” That would be a funny story. But, no, I'm the Padre so I can't do that. So what other choices did I have?

As I looked at the problems I was facing and their impact I realised I wasn't the problem. Sure the flashback had made me feel sorry for myself. By asking myself what choices I had, I found my thinking sharpen up, allowing me to concentrate on the problem as the problem. Resulting in my a new energy to Fire Up and focus on the things I could change.

Again I hope that this is helpful. Choi for now.

P.S. If you have any funny stories about Padre's out bush I would love to hear them.

Padre David Prior 7 RAR david.prior1@defence.gov.au



VALE

The funeral for Robert(Bob, Ribs) Leckie was held at Murray Bridge at the Imperial Football Club rooms and was well attended by the 5 RAR members. Bob had time to organise the function before he departed and his family followed his wishes and kept it simple. His three sons and daughter Rochelle were presented with the 5 RAR sash placed on the coffin then handed over with a few simple words of appreciation from Mo Hancock representing the Tigers present. Bob was a two tour man, both with 5 RAR. The Tailm Bend RSL, of which Bob was a past President and Life Member, was involved in the ceremony. Many locals came to show their respect for Bob, who was well known in the district.



From left: Gary Foster, Moose Dunlop, Ian Cranwell, Rochelle, Mo Hancock, Chas Exindaris, Brayden and Clay Leckie, Greg Dwiar, Davin Leckie, David Harding and Wayne Clarke.

Harrison Bowering Sellick -

Born 4 May 1924 died 7 February 2014. Harry, as he was known to members, lived next door to the club and was “Keeper of the Keys” and security number when members were forgetful. He was well known for the healthy vegetables he grew in his front garden. He attended



Unley High School, Urrbrae Agriculture High School, joined the AIF in 1942, with his brother John opened Sellick's Furniture House in Adelaide and on his own opened Sellick's Garden Centre in Hawthorn. He met the love of his life, June, at a St Kilda Town Hall dance, married three years later and were inseparable for the next 64 years.

Harrison was well known to the Vietnamese community and members were very fond of him. Senate candidate Bill Denny drove him to a Vietnamese veterans community event in January where Harrison was among the guests of honour. On February 6 Bill saw Harrison in his car outside his home and gave him a salute in remembrance of an amusing event at Virginia. It was a shock to everyone when it was learnt Harrison died the following day.

David “Moose” Harris: Big “Moose” is well remembered, particularly by those of us who were most fortunate to served with him in Charlie Company of the Third Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment. He was a very fine man and soldier, highly respected by all who knew him. I don't believe I ever met a man who was respected for the extraordinary devotion he displayed towards his fellow soldiers during training and at war.



The question has been asked about the nickname “Moose”. I have no idea. Perhaps it was his great size and strength or the bellow of his voice on the parade ground. I prefer to believe what a David Attenborough once described as “the largest of the species, generally slow moving and sedentary, but who can become aggressive and move surprisingly quickly if angered or startled.”

With the passing of time and in our advancing years, men like “Moose” continue to remind us fellow veterans of the comradeship and discipline, the hardship experienced and the personal satisfaction derived from service together during those turbulent times. He was a wonderful role model, a protector and staunch friend. The values he presented remain and are not lost to day's somewhat frivolous society.

Precised from a eulogy by
Bob Lewis, 9 Platoon C Coy 3 RAR

Schools History Officer Burnside Citizen of Year

On Friday 19 December 2013, I received a phone call from Burnside City Council, who advised me that I had been nominated as the 2014 City of Burnside Australia Day Community Citizen of the Year. It surprised me when I was told not only had I been nominated but could I attend and accept the award on Australia Day, Sunday 26-January 2014, in conjunction with the Naturalisation Ceremony at Hazelwood Park. The nomination came from **Di Turville**, Vice Principal of Burnside Primary School, on behalf of the school.

The topics of nomination were tall ship building/first fleet, indigenous history, military history and the school music program.

Having been a volunteer at Burnside for more than 13 years, a volunteer for 40 years in other fields, being a contributing member of the Burnside community has always been important to me. You have to be involved to have a voice and effect change.

I accepted the award, which is a reflection of the work and support of not only of myself, but the RAR Association SA, 3 RAR SA Association and those who

have assisted these programs to make them what they are. The ideals and ethics I have are no different to others of the veteran community, or current serving personnel - mateship, honour and integrity - values we endeavour to pass onto the young within our community and society. It is an honour I accept humbly of the recognition by the school community, teachers, students and parents, my peers and the Burnside community in general of their support and trust. Burnside Mayor **David Parkin** presented the award photo courtesy Burnside Council). My daughter **Chelsea**, family, friends and veterans attended to make

Australia Day memorable. It was pleasing to see **Laurie Lewis** and **David White** among those present as well as **Christopher Pyne**, Federal member for Sturt and Minister for Education, who has assisted with the programs; **Vicki Chapman**, MP for Bragg and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and **Grace Portolesi**, Hartley MP and State Minister for Education.

To all concerned I say "Thank you", especially Burnside Primary School, for all your support over the years.

Ken Duthie, JP
Vice President 3 RAR SA Association



Ken flooded with requests - military history now part of curriculum

Less than three weeks after he was named Burnside Council's Citizen of the Year, our Military History Officer **Ken Duthie** featured on the front page of the Education feature in *The Advertiser* on February 18 on Page 37, pictured right. Martina Simos wrote the story. Ken says the national school curriculum now states that Australian military history must be taught in schools. His Citizen of the Year award and other publicity has seen more bookings by schools for his presentation, which he adapts to suit the age of his audiences.

With 23 bookings coming from schools through the city to country, he is booked out for 2014, which sees an increase of between 24,000 and 25,000 students enjoying his presentation as compared to around 23,000 last year.

He has been booked by Burnside Council for month-long daily Heritage presentations to parents and students during the July school holidays. Port Adelaide Enfield Council has arranged for him to set up a display in April 2015 in Port Adelaide as part of council's ANZAC 2015 commemoration.

He says to coverage he has received has increased public awareness of 3 RAR and the Royal Australian Regiment Association. He expressed appreciate of

Historical moment for Piper Major

Our Piper Major **Des Ross** is used to being up front on ceremonial occasions and the historical welcome and blessing of the 1864 vessel *City of Adelaide* was yet another special occasion. At Dock One at Port Adelaide, the world's oldest surviving clipper was blessed by Anglican Bishop **Tim Harris** and Catholic Seafarers' chaplain **Brian Angus**. *The Advertiser* article and photo published on Monday February 17 seen at right shows Des at the ceremony.



HISTORY COMES ALIVE: Ken Duthie at Burnside with Year 7 students Maya, 12, Julie, 21, and Cameron, 12. Picture: Greg Higgs

support from RARA President Michael von Berg and MP Christopher Pne "who has always been right behind the program". Ken does not receive remuneration for his presentations but encourages donations to Trojans Trek. "Which is happening", he said.



HAT DICH 45th ANNIVERSARY - RARA HQ 19.2.2014



Betty Plummer, mother of MC Robert Plummer, Robert's wife Vicki Plummer and sisters Michelle Matthews and Jacqueline Adamczyk, whose father Bruno Adamczyk was KIA in Vietnam on 12 July 1969.



Operation Goodwood, conducted in the Hat Dich region of South Vietnam, began on 11 December 1968. It consisted of Australian, United States, South Vietnamese and Thai troops. Its purpose was to prevent enemy attacks against allied bases such as "Bearcat" and, to a lesser extent, defend the eastern and north eastern approaches to Saigon.



Hat Dich war dead Regiment badges

Previously named "Operation Goodwood", actions were notable failures, the first being a UK naval action and the second the failed assault by UK and Canadian forces on the French city of Caen in 1944, commanded by the then General Bernard Law Montgomery. Not an auspicious start one might have reflected.

Until it ended on about 14 February 1969 the Australian force consisting usually of two battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment, which included two rifle companies of New Zealand troops, plus supporting arms such as tanks, armoured personnel carriers (APCs), artillery and a variety of air support conducted aggressive operations against the enemy. Many of the actions involved assaults on bunker positions and ambushing on likely enemy lines of movement. For its actions during Operation Goodwood the Royal Australian Regiment was awarded the battle honour "Hat Dich".

While considerable praise has been justly lavished on the combat arms, virtually no recognition has been made of the support provided by the so called "pogos" or, as the Americans named the non-combatant troops, "REMFs".

However, it is abundantly clear that the Australian combat elements would have been unable to sustain their operations during "Goodwood" without the vital support provided by the "pogos". Vast quantities of ammunition for the infantry, tanks, APCs and artillery were required on an almost continual basis. Food and water (it being the dry season) was also needed in considerable quantities. The support provided by the following was vital to the combat elements:

- Armourers, mechanics and artificers to service tanks, APCs and artillery;
- Storemen and drivers to deliver the needed stores and ammunition;
- Doctors, nurses and medical orderlies to deal with the numerous casualties;
- Pilots and aircrew to fly in ammunition and supplies and conduct casualty evacuation.

However, we gather today to remember and honour the 26 soldiers who paid the supreme sacrifice during Operation Goodwood.

Laurie Lewis

FROM THE BATTALIONS

5/7 RAR

December 2 last year was a big day for 5/7 RAR Association, with the unveiling of the commemorative plaque in recognition of the services and sacrifice of the members of the 5th/7th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. The service was opened by the Patron Brigadier Chris Appleton CSC (Ret'd). After his commemorative address, prayers were given by Chaplain Geoff Webb, Principal Chaplain Army. The plaque was unveiled by the first CO 1973-1975, Colonel Paul Greenhalgh AM (Ret'd), and the last CO 2005-2006 Brigadier Peter Short DSC. The plaque was dedicated by Chaplain Geoff Webb and



the Ode was given by Warrant Officer Class One Gary Hanson OAM (Ret'd).

The National Anthem was followed by the benediction by Chaplain Webb, and thanks and farewell by Mr

Ross Langford, National President 5/7 RAR Association.

The event was attended by Brigadier Chris Appleton CSC, Brigadier Peter Short CFC, General Peter Cosgrove AC MC, Colonel Paul Greenhalgh AM, Lieutenant Colonel Simon Gould DSC, Regimental Sergeant Major WO1 Gary Hanson OAM, Regimental Sergeant Major Army Dave Ashley, Dr Brendan Nelson, the Honourable Malcolm Brough and former members and family of the 5th/7th Battalion.

After ceremony all those who attended were given a tour of the Australian War Memorial.

Paul Jordan

SA President 5/7 RAR Association



3 RAR

"Old Faithful" has been busy in 2014 and will continue to do so. We have been, are and will be busy raising funds via sausage sizzles at both Kent Town and Windsor Garden Bunnings. In February we conducted a commemorative service for Private **Robert Caston** (KIA 4 February 1968) and in March for 2LT **David Paterson** (KIA 20 March 1971). In April we will be conducting a service for L/Cpl **Roger Fisher** at Mintaro (KIA 26 April 1968) and then in May at Centennial Park services for **Sgt Peter Lewis** (KIA 13 May 1968) and Privates **Alan Cooper** and **William Thomas** (both KIA 26 May 1968).

We have continued to hold lunches at the Hackney Hotel every two months and in May we will be travelling to Victor Harbor for a Committee Meeting. We also have a Quiz Night in June. Our major commemorative service will be on Kapyong Day. This year it will be conducted at the RAR Association RSL Clubrooms in Beatty Street, Linden Park, at 11am. In the middle of the year we will be conducting a service for our Borneo veterans and



Those attending Robert Caston's Commemorative Service on February 4 with Robert's sister Sue Lucas with the purple top and medals on her right breast towards the left in the front row and his brother Phil to the left of the banner in the back row with medals on the right of his chest

in October our annual Maryang San commemorative service.

Our Vice President for the last three years, **Ken Duthie**, has stepped down from that post to enable him to concentrate even more than he does now on teaching our school children Australian military history. Ken was awarded the City of Burnside Australia Day Citizen of the Year for 2014 for his extended services in this field.

Our AGM was held at the RAR Association's Clubrooms on Friday 21 Mar 2014.

Adrian Craig 3 RAR SA

FROM THE BATTALIONS

1 RAR

On Saturday and Sunday 17 and 18 May veterans of the 1st Battalion Royal Australian Regiment will hold their annual reunion in Adelaide to commemorate the battle of Coral/Balmoral. All details of the reunion can be found at:

<http://coralreunion.blogspot.com.htm>
or by contacting John Quinn 0439 077 350
email shazquin@yahoo.com.au

Please note: The reunion is open to all veterans of 1 RAR whether they were present at Coral or not as well as veterans from wars, conflicts and peacekeeping post Vietnam.

2 RAR

Plans are well advanced with the 2RAR Association National Reunion in Adelaide from April 22 to 25. The focus of the reunion will be on two events - a Commemorative Service and the Unveiling and Dedication of the 2nd Battalion Memorial, the first stand-alone 2RAR public memorial in Australia. All members of 2RAR, since its formation, regardless of Active Service or not, are invited to attend.

Tuesday April 22 - 1700hrs to 1900hrs.

Meet and Greet at the Walkerville RSL, 98 Walkerville Terrace.. Finger food and refreshments available.

Wednesday April 23 - 1100hrs.

A Commemorative Service at the Vietnam War Memorial (pictured) at Torrens Parade Ground. The service will commemorate the last six South Australians who paid the supreme sacrifice while serving with the Battalion in South Vietnam on both tours of duty.



They are: Pte **Dennis Nelson**, DOW, 28 September 1967. Pte **Stan Radomi**, KIA, 28 September 1967. Pte **Ray Binning**, KIA, 26 January 1968. Cpl **Graham Norley**, KIA, 26 January 1968. Pte **John Rogers**, KIA, 10 February 1968. Pte **Rod Chapman**, DOI, 28 April 1971.

Light lunch buffet and refreshments

in the Drill Hall. Colour photos taken for the reunion montage, available at Friday's ANZAC Day lunch. Cost \$25. The McLaren Vale winery bus tour will leave at 1300hrs.

Thursday 24 April - 1200hrs.

Unveiling and Dedication Service of the 2RAR Memorial on the Kintore Avenue end of Pathway of Honour (pictured).



This is a memorial to all former members of 2RAR, since its formation, regardless of active service or not and will be used by South Australian members for their annual Samichon Day Remembrance Service on June 24. Light lunch buffet and refreshments in the Drill Hall.

Cost \$25. Reunion smorgasbord dinner at the Buckingham Arms

Hotel, 1 Walkerville Terrace, Gilberton. \$35. 1830 hrs for 1900hrs.

Continued next column

ANZAC Day - Friday April 25

ANZAC Day Dawn Service at the National War Memorial at 0545hrs and in view of the large recent attendances (last year 11,000) it will pay to arrive around 0515hrs. The innovation by the RSL of big video screens enables everyone to hear and see. ANZAC Day lunch at the British Hotel, 58 Finnis Street North Adelaide, a short walk across the parklands. Lunch and bar facilities available. The RAR SA Association Reunion will be in the nearby Lion Hotel, North Adelaide, for those wishing to catch up with mates in the other Battalions later. On the 16th, 17th & 18th of May 2014 veterans of the 1st Battalion Royal Australian Regiment will be holding their annual reunion in Adelaide to commemorate the battle of Coral/Balmoral.

Reunion details: coralreunion.blogspot.com.htm
or John Quinn 0439 077 350 shazquin@yahoo.com.au

BRISBANE STOMP SUCCESS

Due to the efforts of Mick Harding ex 6 RAR, (one of the 2013 trekkers) the Brisbane 2014 RAR Stomp for Support was held as a fundraiser for Trojan's Trek. The efforts of Mick and his wife Bec and some of the stalwarts of the National Memorial Walk crew, AKA Dad's Army, were rewarded by raising in excess of \$4000. A good crowd gathered for a short service in Anzac Square which preceded the 13 km walk to Enoggera while rattling cans.



Vietnam Battlefield Tour October 2014

A tour of major battlefields of the Vietnam Wars between 1946 and 1975 is being organised for October 15 to 27. Tour participants will include military historians, retired service personnel and people interested in Vietnam Wars history. The itinerary is being prepared to include visits to Hanoi War Museum, the remote valley of Dien Bien Phu (French 1953-54), Da Nang (Red Beach Marine landing 1965), the spectacular Hai Van Pass, Hue (Tet Offensive 1968), the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone) and Ben Hai River, Con Thien FSB, the Vinh Moc Tunnels, Route 9 FSB's inc. Camp Carroll, the Rockpile & Khe Sanh (77 day siege 1968), A Shau Valley (Hamburger Hill).

Tourists will travel south to Ho Chi Minh City or Saigon and visit the Cu Chi Tunnels, the Re-unification Palace and War Remnants Museum. Travel by hydro-foil to Vung Tau, former Australian Logistics Base, Long Hai Hills in the Minh Dam Secret Zone, the Horseshoe, Nui Dat (1 ATF base) and the Long Tan battlefield and Cross. Tour limited to 15-18. Estimated cost \$3700. Details: John England email johnen9rar@bigpond.com or 0488 441 864 or 8387 8075 or Warwick Archer email archerw@bigpond.com

FROM THE BATTALIONS

9 RAR

Visit to the Seymour Commemorative Walk from March 3 to 7 March 2014

A quote from Ross Gregson, Walk Committee: "The Commemorative Walk is not to memorialise those who served in Vietnam and/or those who paid the ultimate price, but to commemorate the service of all who played their part in what turned out to be a tumultuous part of Australia's history. It will, in the interpretive centre, give an accurate history of the times prior to military commitment, the period of our involvement and the aftermath.

The Walk will be a meandering red earth path set in native trees and grasses that resemble rubber trees and rice paddies. These two plants are synonymous with Vietnam.

Along the length of this Walk will be walls made up of panels of DigiGlass with the name of every Serviceman and Servicewoman who served in their various capacities.

The names will be separated only by the Service in which they served in alphabetical order. The plinths on which the panels stand will have holes for Poppies; the effect is to have a field of Poppies under the names. Behind the names is the picture story of the Vietnam conflict".

The purpose of our visit was twofold. Firstly to view this Commemorative Walk and secondly to conduct a Commemoration Service for **Grantley Scales** who paid the supreme sacrifice on 5 March, 1969, while serving in Vietnam with B Company, 9 RAR. We conducted our service at 1800 hours on March 5 at the memorial which is set aside to further recognise our war dead.

Ross Gregson very kindly spoke before the service to brief us on how the project came to fruition followed by our President, **David Stacey**, who conducted our service at which **Mick Mummery** recited The Ode. Following the service we adjourned to the nearby Seymour Bistro/Services Club, a great venue we recommend to you. On the Thursday a number of us caught the train from Seymour down to Melbourne for the day. Pretty easy to fill in a day in Melbourne by visiting the Docklands Stadium, the Victoria Markets and of course no visit complete without visiting the DFOs at the south bank. The only down side of the trip was that we were not able to visit the museum at Pucka. Unfortunately the curator's father passed away and the museum was closed out of respect.

Thanks to **Ross Gregson** and his VVA team at Seymour for what is an outstanding effort. Ross and his committee have created a Walk, not only for the Vietnam Veterans of Victoria but for all Vietnam Veterans. We would recommend you check their website, contact Ross and organise a visit. Like us you will be amazed at what they have achieved on our behalf.

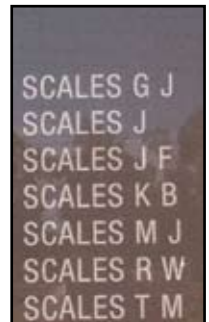
Warren Featherby
9 RAR (SA).



Warren Featherby showing John Schumann's new book, *I was only nineteen*, to Terry McElligott, David Stacey, Jeff Howe Jim Fisher and Rick Pomeroy.



Right:
Grantley
Scales name
on the wall.
Left: One
of the many
Digiglass
panels and
the concrete
plinth.



Ross Gregson, VVA Seymour and one of the prime movers of this project, and his partner who also played a major role, beside the Memorial for those who made the supreme sacrifice.



Above: Barb Featherby left and Jenny Howe on right placing Aussie flags and poppies in the plinth. Right: The Commemorative Walk - about 400 metres long. Left: Warren Featherby, Hayden Madigan, Terry McElligott, Jim Fisher, David Stacey, Mick Mummery and Jeff Howe.



Royal Australian Regiment Association Committee 2013-2014

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2014 Events

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Fridays

April 4 Light meal
11 Ladies night
18 Light meal
25 ANZAC DAY CLOSED

May 2 Light meal
9 Ladies Night
16 Light meal
23 Light meal
30 Light meal

June 6 Light meal
13 Ladies night
20 Light meal
27 Light meal

July 4 Light meal
11 Ladies night
18 Light meal
25 Light meal

August 1 Light meal
8 Ladies night
15 Light meal
22 Light meal
30 Light meal

Committee meetings

Friday May 16
June 20
July 18
August 15
If dates change Battalion reps
will be notified by email.

Change to Infantryman contributions

All future articles and photos for *Infantryman* are to be submitted to Editorial Committee members Michael von Berg, Greg Dwiar and Robert Whinnen - see this page for email addresses - and Fred Fairhead at mfred@bigpond.com.

Editorial Committee members will vet them, prepared them for publication and then submit them to Editor Penelope Forster for preparing the layouts. All emails, both articles and photos, must show in the subject line the word "Infantryman" and then another word or two.

When more than one photo is submitted for the same article, type: Infantryman parade 1, Infantryman parade 2, etc. Articles must be submitted in Word in 10pt arial and all photos as jpgs - not included within the text. Phone numbers must be written XXXX XXXX for landlines and XXXX XXX XXX for mobiles. The next issue will be the August one for which the deadline will be Monday July 14 - if not before. Thank you - Penelope