



INFANTRYMAN

The Journal of the RAR Association SA
Keeping the Spirit Alive

December 2014

Governor launches book at first HQ visit



Governor of SA, Hieu Van Le, accepts the first edition of "A Duty Done" from Lt. Col. Fred Fairhead. Quietly taking centre stage was Fred's grandson Henry.

Only four weeks after he was appointed Governor of SA, Hieu Van Le accepted the invitation to launch Lt. Col. Fred Fairhead's book "A Duty Done". In his address on September 26 His Excellency said:

I am greatly honoured to be here with you today for the launch of this wonderful book by Lieutenant Colonel Fairhead.

There have been hundreds, perhaps thousands, of books written about Australia's participation in the Vietnam conflict.

They range from individual experiences, to official histories of units and series such as "the Australian Army and the Vietnam war".

Lieutenant Colonel Fred Fairhead's book "A Duty Done" is none of these.

Being the history of the Royal Australian Regiment in the Vietnam conflict, it fills an important void.

It gives due recognition, where warranted, to the supporting arms and services, such as artillery, armour, army aviation and the Royal Australian Air Force.

The book's main focus is on the operations of the Royal Australian Regiment during the period from 1965 to 1972.

On the 8 June 1965 the first battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment arrived in Vung Tau on board HMAS

Sydney and was deployed to the Bien Hoa area.

Subsequently, all nine battalions of the regiment were deployed to serve in Vietnam.

Seven of these battalions returned for a second, one year deployment.

Between 1965 and 1972 over 13,000 soldiers of the regiment served in Vietnam, some more than once.

It is important to recognise that for some of these battalions, this was the first time conscripts were deployed overseas on operational service.

Most of you will know that the conflict in Vietnam was a dominant theme of my childhood and upbringing.

I will always have the utmost admiration for the allies, and the courage and determination they showed in the Vietnam war.

Continued page 5



The Battle of Long Tan commemoration was held at the club on August 18 with a full house of guests, members and visitors. Report pages 12 and 13.

President Michael von Berg and Committee Members wish RARA SA members, their families and friends a joyous Festive Season and peace, happiness and the best of health throughout 2015.



Pay and allowances for the ADF unfair

Christmas is supposed to be a period of happiness and goodwill. In normal circumstances we would all subscribe to that.

But with the Federal Government's current attitude towards the serving and veteran communities in matters of pay and allowances and the unfair indexation of disability pensions it is anything but a happy time.

Whatever goodwill the Government may have had from the defence and veteran community it has all but been squandered in the first year in office.

The 2014 Workplace Remuneration proposals for the Armed Forces is a disgrace. I don't propose to go into detail but the proposal to index service pay at 4.5% over three years is effectively 1.5% per annum pay increase which is half of actual inflation. CPI in June was 3% and if all serving members' rents, rations and quarters payments increase in line with the CPI, which they will, the proposed annual increase of 1.5% will see our serving men and women going out backwards.

This at a time when we need our defence team to be right on the ball, and most importantly, now we are recommitted to Iraq and who knows elsewhere, to be treating them like this is counterproductive.

Are these people for real? What team of idiots has come up with this brilliant idea? Can you imagine the police, fire brigade and ambulance essential services putting up with this outrageous proposal which is just one of many anomalies? Not likely. Their respective unions would be on their case in a flash. But the Armed Forces do not have a union and as such from within they are unable to do anything except accept the Government's proposals. We understand the chain of command, the traditions and the convention of soldiers required to serve the Government of the day but that doesn't mean we, as an ex-service organisation, have to accept what the Government has put up to our serving men and women in uniform.

In fact we won't. As a part of the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations, the Royal Australian Regiment Association with the Defence Force Welfare Association have lodged a Submission to the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal. We were hoping someone (the Parliament and the Australian people) would see some sense and demand fairness in this totally demoralising outrageous workplace remuneration arrangement. But sadly the submission was ignored and the CDF has announced the original proposal will stand. This would not be accepted in any other employment environment without a fight that is what the Government will get. The outrage displayed from the Australian public overall has been a revelation and it's encouraging to know that they, if not the Government, is supportive of the members of the ADF.

For years we fought the unfair indexation of military superannuation and, to the Governments credit, they promised to address this unfair issue pre-election and once in Government they kept their promise and rectified what has been contentious for many years. The unfair indexation for superannuation was to use the CPI

which we all know is not a true reflection on the cost of living. But what the Government has now done is to announce its intention in July 2017 to index the Service Pension and by linkage the Veterans Disability Pensions to the CPI instead of the current indexation formula that includes CPI or a wages component (27.7% of Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE) whichever is the greater).

Is this another Treasury masterstroke? Where are the checks and balances here? More importantly both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Veterans Affairs have publicly stated they are determined to do what is necessary to assist those members of the armed forces and ex-serving members who are experiencing mental

health issues of which PTSD is a major concern. There are thousands of disabled veterans who have PTSD as a part of their accepted disabilities. Some of the triggers which relapse PTSD are fear of the unknown, being on edge, anger and irritability, hopelessness and depression and to think our disabled veterans are not angry, on edge, irritable and depressed due to this shabby treatment is an illusion.

It's a paradox and totally contradictory in doing everything possible to help those with PTSD but at the same time doing everything possible to encourage a relapse which is extremely frustrating and life-interrupting.

This outrageous change to the indexation of veteran's disability pensions will not only affect the quality of life for those thousands affected but increase the DVA mental health budget by hundreds of millions of dollars for additional psychiatric treatment and prescription drugs which could have been avoided.

As an Association we are totally apolitical and would be critical of serving members pay and allowances and the unfair indexation of veteran's disability pensions no matter who was in power. We all appreciate that we live in tough times and the Federal Budget needs to be repaired but if this was private enterprise and a budget was prepared and presented as badly as this one, the Financial Controller would be encouraged to go fishing and not to come back!

It's not what we expect from Government. We would certainly expect more than what appears to be simply accepting some Treasury recommendations which may look do-able on paper without considering the effect on soldiers and their families who do the heavy lifting or the disabled veterans who have done their bit and are still struggling with their disabilities.

The Parliament really needs to have a serious look at this or, if those responsible are not capable, get someone who can, because there is considerable anger and resentment which is distressing a lot of people and that is simply not good enough.

**Michael von Berg MC
President**

**Royal Australian Regiment Association
16 October 2014**



FROM THE COMMAND POST

Should 'lucky country' be 'plucky country'?

No one can say that the 2014 calendar has been uneventful. The ISIS conflict in the Middle East; televised beheadings of foreigners; terrorist threats within our borders; the Ebola crisis; the wilful shooting down of MH17; the mysterious disappearance of MH370; the independence Scotland referendum; Russian annexation of Crimea; the kidnapping of schoolchildren by rebels in Africa and criminals in Mexico; refugees living in the most atrocious conditions due to political and religious persecution and here in Adelaide the world will stop if the Government imposes a city parking tax!

When you look at the world's conflicts and tragedies being played out, you realise how lucky we are to be living in this wonderful country and State. Whatever problems we perceive to be serious pale into insignificance compared to the problems being experienced in other parts of the world and the resulting loss of life.

I don't think we are the "lucky country". We are more the "plucky country" which digs deep when things get tough which may not be as serious as some of the world's hot spots or the tragedies of the missing and downed Malaysian Airliners, but they are serious to the individuals or the families involved and we rally and support those in need, as we do with many of these international conflicts and tragedies.

We are a nation as people who look out for one another and none more so than the veteran community and that's where this year as a microcosm the RAR Association continues to play a significant role. We have so many individuals who give their time freely to help others who may be struggling. I am constantly amazed how people just quietly go about their business not looking for recognition or kudos helping other veterans, visiting the sick and dying, being involved in various committees and working groups to improve the lot of the veterans and the many who keep our club and association going.

You then go to the other extreme where you have veterans who have nothing better to do than to criticise and denigrate anyone and anything, rather than getting out from behind their computers and doing something constructive rather than destructive.

The internet in my view is the very best and worst in communications development over the last 30 odd years. It's an excellent way of communicating for business and staying in touch with family and friends even though it enables the cyber pests out there to spread their sometimes ill-informed and counterproductive diatribe at the press of the send button.

Much of what is sent is cowardly and gutless. It's very sad when I see some of this because I thought all ex-members of the ADF were through their service on the same page. Whether you're an infantryman or

supporting arms, a naval leading hand or an aircrew member is totally immaterial. We have all served with pride and distinction in our own way and it saddens me sometimes to read the bitter and twisted emails to other veterans, service chiefs or members of the Parliament which do us all more harm than good.

Yes, the "pen is mightier than the sword" but how you yield that pen and how your argument is presented is the difference between acceptance and rejection by the recipient. Perhaps some of the perpetrators and recidivists who resort to these unfortunate cyber-attacks may wish to reconsider their position and do something useful?

I am extremely grateful and delighted in the way our year has panned out. The world is getting smaller through the aforementioned 24/7 communications and international air travel and, although the world's problem spots are physically a long way away, they are a lot closer psychologically and emotionally and we are a part of this planet (although some colleagues suggest from time to time I am on another) and we must respond and act accordingly.

We simply cannot ignore the terrorist risks and, not wishing to unnecessarily alarm, we are an ex-service organization and club and we must take the appropriate precautions and these will be followed up by the committee.

We are a vibrant and proactive Association and club which would not be possible without the incredible work of Rod, Bob, Spike, Tony, Adrian, Tim, Colin, Neil, Penelope, Lyn Fisher and the many who put their hand up to help out. I am particularly thankful to Lynn Graham for taking the all-important minutes and keeping Rod in check and the counsel and support of our Patron, Laurie Lewis. Fred Fairhead has done us all proud through his incredible work with "A Duty Done" and Penelope keeps churning out a great "Infantryman", not without considerable time-line and content pressures.

In conclusion I sincerely wish to thank the wives and sweethearts of the committee members and all others who give their time so freely for supporting your husbands and partners. Without your support we would be stuffed!

On behalf of the committee I would like to wish you all a very happy, healthy and safe Christmas and we should all think of and be thankful for the many young men and women of the ADF who are away from their families at this time, keeping us safe.

Duty First

Michael von Berg MC
President



SECRETARY'S END OF YEAR REPORT

Thanks to all who keep the club going - voluntarily

At this time of year it is a human habit of assessing what has been achieved during the calendar period of January to December. Assessments of losses and gains, some personal, as a family, as a community and no doubt also a few as a nation.

Other than health professionals I can think of no others who qualify to advise us; spiritual, financial, ethical, and political like many other facets of life can never ever truly be given as advice, they are the opinions of who is espousing them.

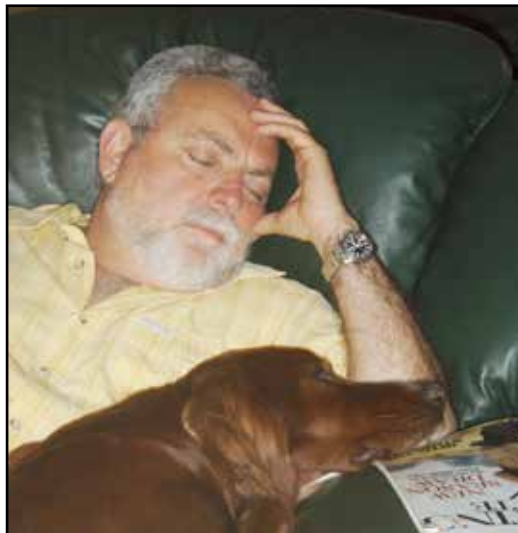
My opinion is we should all do our best to maintain or improve our health - both physical and mental.

It is the greatest personal asset we can have. Good health will stand us in good stead for facing all of those personal challenges, whether it be loss of a loved one, financial or just frustration at what is happening within our immediate family and community.

We are extremely fortunate to have such a comprehensive health care system as our DVA provides, use it!

Following from my last report (read opinion) of the Federal government policy to Veterans' Disability Pensions, I can only say the interests of all veterans are eminently served by the TPI Association (SA).

A totally professional well planned and articulated campaign across the full political spectrum is being waged by TPI Association (SA) President Leon Eddy and his team, as well the national organisation is mobilised. Well done.



The silence of other ESOs is deafening! The RAR Association SA delegates to the RARA National Conference, President **Mick von Berg** and Vice President **Rod Graham** will be taking this as an issue of priority for National RAR Association's action. We should all be appreciative of Mick and Rod's commitment and mindful they personally pay all their own expenses such as air, train fares and accommodation - no perks in the RAR Association. So thank you, fellas.

Also thank you to those few who do so much to keep your Association club facilities going - Spike, Kara, Adrian, Big Neil and in the kitchen our stalwarts WO Caterer Colin

Abel, Rod and the ladies such as Lyn Fisher and Lynn Graham and others.

Start with a great day today to make a great New Year. Best wishes.

Robert Whinnen
Secretary.

'Command in Vietnam' ideal festive season reading

Greetings all:

Just to advise you all that there about 100 copies of my book "Command in Vietnam" still available from the publisher Slouch Hat Publications: (03) 5986 6437 or PO Box 174, McCrae, Victoria, 3938

Website: www.slouch-hat.com.au

It's a good companion to Mike English's book "The Infantryman" and our own "Yours Faithfully" edited by Captain **Colin Clarke** and issued to every member who served in Vietnam in 1971.

Merry Christmas and happy new year to you and your family.

Peter Scott

The above mail popped up among my emails (and those of other members) on November 17. Then we decided to include his email in this issue, I arranged to meet Peter for a photo. Peter has been an avid researcher and writer for many years. In addition to "Command in Vietnam", Peter has completed a collection of biographies titled "A Matter Of Pride" of all the cadets in his class at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, over 1946-48. "Completed" after two other people started the book but were unable to finish it. He has also written and illustrated a biography of his beloved late wife Gwenda, purely for his family. Among the photos are those of Gwenda as a young child, in various places in the world as she travelled extensively



with Peter and of her activities with quilting. Peter has designed a complex layout for the family tree of his side of the Scott family. Dedicatedly he has worked for hours researching on the internet and typing with just one finger his fascinating works, despite the difficulty of fitting the photos and illustrations into the scripts. He

gave a chuckle when it was suggested he tackle his own autobiography.

"Command in Vietnam" would make great Christmas gifts.

Penelope Forster

"Command in Vietnam" briefly traces Peter's early career but mainly focuses on the issues and problems of commanding an Australian infantry battalion (3RAR) during the war in South Vietnam in 1971. Commanding officers rarely write about their experiences but Peter is well qualified to compare the command and operational issues in Vietnam with those of the Korean War. Well illustrated, the book reviews

each of the main operations undertaken by 3RAR. He also provides a fascinating insight into a war during which operations were usually controlled from the CO's helicopter, rather than from a remote HQ.

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Answering the call of duty again

Meagan Dillon

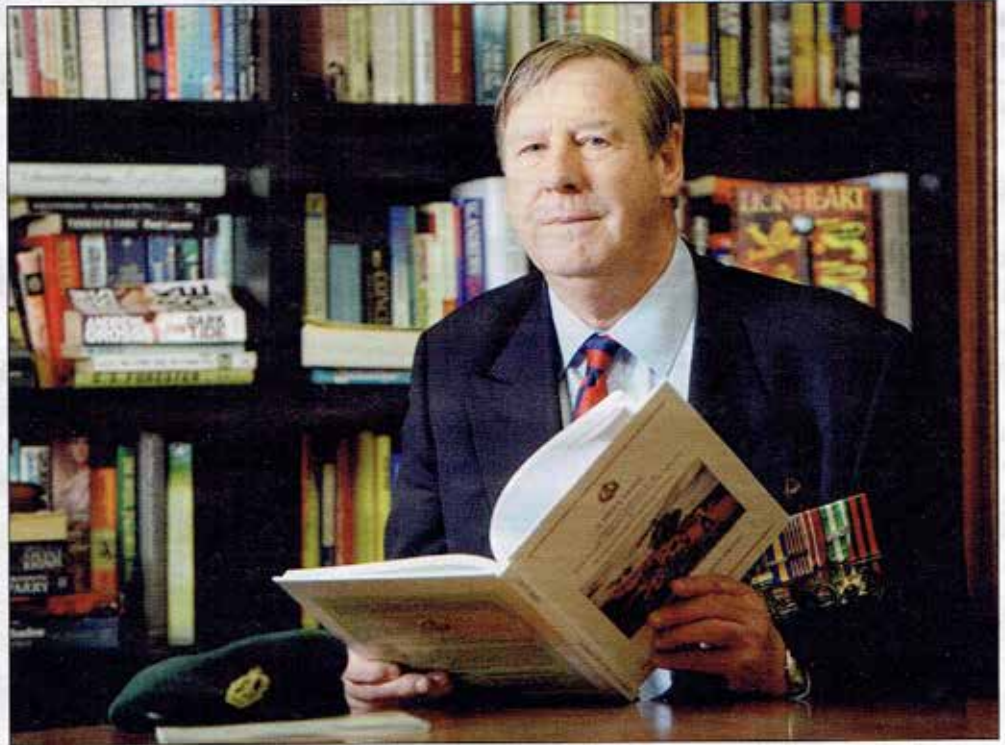
RETIRED Lieutenant Colonel Fred Fairhead says his new book on the battles of the Vietnam War could help modern-day soldiers prepare for jungle warfare.

Mr Fairhead, 73, of Erindale, was part of the Royal Australian Regiment's 6th Battalion which clashed with up to 2500 Viet Cong in the now-famous Battle of Long Tan on August 18, 1966.

Eighteen Australians and 245 Viet Cong soldiers died in the battle in a small province southeast of Ho Chi Minh City.

Mr Fairhead says his book, *A Duty Done*, is a good guide about what to do and what not to do during jungle warfare using real-life examples.

"The main objective of the book is to provide a historical record of the war for the families of those who served in the battalions," Mr Fairhead says.



Vietnam veteran Fred Fairhead's book *A Duty Done* focuses on jungle military operations during the war.

Picture: SAM WUNDKE

"They (6RAR) gave them an absolute hiding.

"But the second objective is to describe the tactical operations and the lessons we learnt from them that may be useful for planning in the current army.

"I'm aware the book pro-

vides that advice but I'm not sure the army will use it."

Mr Fairhead joined the 6RAR before its second tour of Vietnam between May 1969 and June 1970.

His book summarises many of the operations conducted by nine Australian

battalions during the Vietnam War between May 1965 and January 1972.

It was launched at the Burnside-based SA Royal Australian Regiment Association on Friday.

It is available at rara-sa.org.au

Governor launches Fred's book

Continued from page 1

Lieutenant Colonel Fairhead has spent five years researching and analysing the content for his book.

That has included examination of war diaries, contact reports and personal interviews with many members of the regiment and supporting units.

The result is an outstanding history of the regiment's service in Vietnam, and one that is remarkably detailed.

In particular, it has provided detailed accounts of significant actions such as "Long Tan" and "Binh Ba" and lesser engagements.

Most actions are supported by a series of excellent maps, which enable the reader, even those without military skills, to follow the course of the action.

This is also a very timely document. As time since the Vietnam conflict passes, it is most important we document and record not only what exists in living memories but the photographs and memorabilia which still exist in the collections of those in the first generation.

I expect this will serve as a history of particular appeal to the families of veterans, especially the children and grandchildren of those who served but who, like most



veterans, are reluctant to tell their story.

As a result, I have particularly found the content in this book to be of great interest.

I understand this book has already received recognition and praise from academics and ex-military leaders,

such as His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, Major General Peter Arnison and Professor Robert O'Neill.

I met with Sir Peter Cosgrove yesterday and on hearing I would attend the launch of this book today, he and Lady Cosgrove asked me to convey their

personal congratulations to Lt Colonel Fairhead and to say g'day to all of you here.

It is a remarkable history, a salute and tribute to the 354 soldiers who were killed in action, the 2000 or more who were wounded and those who still carry the consequences of their service.

With the launch of his book, Lieutenant Colonel Fairhead has established himself as an outstanding researcher and analyst of Australian military history.

I congratulate him on his work, of which he should be very proud. It gives me great pleasure to formally launch this book, "A Duty Done".

Thank you.

Your club, your input, you're welcome

Club Manager's Report

This is my first report since being elected to the position of Club Manager at this year's AGM, following on from **Rod Graham**, who is now Vice President.

Neil Nichols has been appointed as Bar Manager, which will further ease the workload on those who help out with the daily running of the clubrooms.

Tim Karasoulos is the merchandise officer, so if you are in need of RAR ties, polo shirts, vests or caps, or with suggestions we should look into, Tim is the man. He's at the club most Friday nights.

The RARA is now holding Ceremonial Services at the clubroom when possible; this has been well received and attended by our members thanks to the efforts put in by our Ceremonial Officer **Adrian Craig**.

Ed Czerwinski teaches martial arts (Goju Ryu Seishikan Karate) on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for both juniors and seniors. See story opposite page.

Leticia Anderson continues to hire the rooms from us for gentle yoga session on Mondays and Wednesdays evenings, and runs pilates on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. All welcome.

Ladies nights held on the second Tuesday of each month have been supported by members and their wives/partners, etc. Numbers are improving with members bringing guests with them, which is testament to Colin's continued efforts preparing the meals.

Socially the RARA ran a successful quiz night in August which raised more than \$1200, thanks to quiz master **Big Nev Nichols** and his lollipop assistants, treasurer **Tony Boyce** with marketing and, of course you, our members for your support.

We are planning another quiz night for late February. I have had an offer from a member who does a "Crime and Mystery" night set down for a Saturday night early in April. More on these later.



- The crack in the front wall of the building is being repaired as you read this, with minimal interruption to the club's day-to-day operations,.
- Approval has been given for the installation of reverse cycle air conditioning inside the building.
- We are looking at extending the side veranda.
- We have approval to showcase a GPMG M60 and a SLR, in with our AK47 and .303.

So as you can see things are continuing to happen around the place, for you, the members, benefit.

Greg (Spike) Dwiar
Club Manager

2015 SONS OF ANZACS TOUR

Firsthand knowledge from tour leader

Next year's Sons of Anzac Vietnam Commemoration Tour from October 1-9 followed by the optional Extension Tour from October 9-17 will be led by **Gary McKay MC**, a writer and former officer.

The tour will cover a week visiting the sites of Australian courage and sacrifice in the south. The optional tour will take in cultural and historic sites in the north. The highlight will be a commemorative service at Long Tan. Gary was awarded the Military Cross while serving with the 4th Battalion, RAR during the Vietnam War. McKay has written several books including "Good Company", and "Delta Four: Australian Riflemen in Vietnam". Gary has good local knowledge and is an excellent tour guide. Details: Mat McLachlan Battlefield Tours 1300 880 34 or www.vietnamtour2015.com.au

Woodside reunion November 2015

This happening will be lead by Col. Steve Larkin. Details on <http://www.3rar.org/reunion.html>

Please register as soon as possible. Registration fee: \$50 single, \$80 double. \$40 each additional person. Registrations close Tuesday 30 June 2015. It is planned for Trojan's Trek to benefit from Old Faithful's reunion and revelry.



Legacy Women's Choir Do you love to sing?

Membership is open to anyone associated with a Legacy Widow, whether daughter, niece, sister, cousin or friend. Rather than looking for those with choral experience, this is for anyone who enjoys music and meeting new people.

Rehearsals are held at Legacy House on the third Thursday of the month at 10 am.

Please phone Legacy House on 8231 9812 and we will book you in for the next rehearsal.



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Your club, your input, you're welcome

A trip back in time

Tony Boyce, the Association's Treasurer and Membership Officer, took a trip back in time recently when he was invited by Major **Jim O'Hanlon** of 7 RAR to give a presentation to the Specialist Combat Communications Course at Edinburgh on what it was like to be a Battalion/Company Signaller in Vietnam. Tony served as a an NCO with the Signals platoon of the 4th ANZAC Battalion in Vietnam in 1971. Tony said: "I found the class to be very attentive and interested to hear what an old digger had to say about serving as a Combat Signaller in Vietnam. I was taken aback that, though many of them had already seen combative service in Afghanistan, they still looked so very young, a reflection of how young we were when we were called to serve our country in Vietnam." Tony spoke for about 45 minutes to 30 participants of the course on such topics as establishing communications in a static Fire Support base situation to maintaining communication in the field under combat situations of which he had firsthand experience. "The course was quite surprised by how heavy our 25 set radios were and how much weight we carried overall compared to the light weight modern equipment



Tony shares his knowledge and experience with the 7RAR combat signallers. Right: Tony as company signaller in Vietnam in 1971.

of today. Of course I still carry around the same amount of weight today but instead of carrying it on my back it's round my mid-riff," Tony said with a smile. The Commanding Officer of 7 RAR Lt Col MD **Wells**, DSC, wrote a glowing report of Tony's presentation and mentioned how important it was for the younger soldiers of today to learn from the experience and knowledge of our previous veterans and that to have a gentleman with Tony's experience and humour come to address the course had been a privilege for those present. Good on ya ,Tony. Can I have the "TARDIS" back now?

Karate display fascinating

Two young karate exponents presented a demonstration of their skills after dinner at the club was served on September 12. RAR Association member **Ed Czerwinski**, Sen sie, who teaches karate at the club, arranged for **April Marie Campo** and **William Wong** to display katas (a system of individual training exercises in karate and other martial arts).

April Marie, 25, was a professor in special education at the University of San Jose Recoletos in Cebu City in the Philippines. She came to South Australia about a year ago to be with her sister and brother-in-law **Evangeline** and **Kim Jaffer**. The siblings are both studying early childhood education at Regency Park TAFE.



William Wong and April Marie Campo in action at the RARA SA headquarters.



Instructor Ed Czerwinski (centre back) with April Marie Campo (third from left) with her brother-in-law and sister Kim and Evangeline Jaffer and William Wong and his father Louis.

William, 15, a Glenunga International School student, has been undertaking karate training for three years and sees karate as sport and for self defence. He hopes to study psychology at university. He also enjoys piano lessons.

Those interested in learning karate can contact the club.

Catherine May, Physiotherapist

9 Crossley Street, Erindale

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Trojan's Trek 2014 - 'Thanks' for support

From Trojan's Trek website www.trojanstrek.com



The day dawned with lots of black clouds and the threat of rain imminent. But our concerns were unfounded. Overcast, 24 degrees, an ideal day for a stroll or run round the 5 km track Trevor Atkins had marked out round the Torrens Lake. The sponsors were committed, the coffee was brewing, and the barbecue was warming as they set off.

The serious runners blasted out of the blocks keen to compete for the \$100 male and female prizes. The rest, all 120, with dogs and children at foot moved off as a wave of support for the concept of veterans helping veterans. It was not long before the first male and female runners completed the course to the accolades of the injured, the workers and the lazy. Well done to the winners, a special thanks to the first lady home, Catherine May (below bottom right) who donated her prize money back to the cause.

After a period of indulgence at the Metro Fire Service & 9 RAR sausage sizzle, former SA Governor Kevin Scarce, drew the big raffle.

The prize winners: First prize: Rod Graham, a Battle Field Tour to Vietnam for two to mark the 50th anniversary of Australia's involvement in that war. Second prize: Robert Day, OAM, a big TV set. Third prize: \$250 Mr Stait from Wagga Wagga. Fourth prize: Greg Hallam, a selection of fine SA parliamentary wine.

All in all a successful day which will underpin future operations. Moose and the board extend their sincere thanks for your involvement on the day with a special mention extended to the great sponsors of the event.



Dog owners took the opportunity exercise their canine friends.



Above: Guest of honour former ABC radio presenter Carole Whitelock with second past the post Caelum Schild, an exercise psychologist with AEP Health Group at St Marys, and Trojan's Trek founder Moose Dunlop, AOM.



Above below: and top right: RARA Secretary Robert Whinnen was among those helping stock and distribute goodies bags and distribute T-shirts.



First woman to cross the finish line physiotherapist Catherine May is congratulated by Carole Whitelock.

Trojan's Trek - The female experience release from past

On Sunday 21 September 2014, 16 women and two facilitators met in Adelaide to take part in a complete unknown. They were a collective of women who had been finding it tough to live a normal life due to ill health, physical injury or issues related to military service.

Most of the women, who hadn't met before, were about to participate in a pilot program for Trojan's Trek sisters. This was to be a national, if not world first program, in recognition of various traumas suffered by women who had volunteered to serve their country in the Australian Defence Force.

The Trek is a six-day outdoor experience in the North Flinders Ranges on Moolooloo Station. The women were based at the Blinman Hut, a small remote stone hut, yet adequately serviced with running hot and cold water and toilets. To say that the women were anxious would be a massive understatement as fear of the unknown and loss of control in a challenging situation are the enemies of most women, let alone women suffering.

A set of sisterly virtues was adopted which in turn set the scene for the duration of the trek. That basic connection was made with each individual and holistically as a group. Every woman was individually supported and allowed to be themselves in a safe and secure environment with the knowledge they could choose to discuss their personal story if they so desired.

All had equal opportunity to "spill their guts of burden" and be no longer judged for a past that wasn't their fault. All took that opportunity in some way shape or form with

Mervyn Fox, 91, was among those who chanced their luck buying a lottery ticket for which first prize was a "Sons of ANZAC" commemorative tour of Vietnam in October next year.

It was won by Club Vice president Rod Graham.

Mervyn is seen with Bill Wallace and Mark Keynes who manned the stall. The prize was donated by Matt MacLachlan Battlefield Tours and Singapore Airlines. Mervyn is one of only three surviving South Australian Z Special Unit Association members.



support, validation and recognition that their story was worth telling. As a result, all no longer felt the need to carry the load they had personally been holding within for a very long time.

To place a dollar value on the return of self-worth and empowerment is just not possible. To allow a woman to choose a release from a past in which she has been trapped is priceless. To show them that care and compassion can exist in such a raw and rugged environment is an experience which will resonate with them for life!. I know for a fact that there are now 16 women carrying a lighter load because of to our week in the bush.

Sixteen sisters with spirit and new hope for change facing the future. It is a cause and awareness of the needs of service women which is long overdue. It has shown the way and given the participants the choice of "living versus existing".

This program needs to continue and be funded accordingly for all of the reasons I have stated above, no ifs or buts. There is no price on saving a human life and empowering a person again with unity, purpose and cause. This is a very real issue and after all we are someone's sister, mother, aunt and friend.

Anna Ventry-Sutcliffe



The Metropolitan Fire Service supported the Trojan's Trek's walk fundraiser by providing the barbecue equipment and personnel. Here Lyn Fisher, Mick Mummery, Keith Wright, 9RAR, and fireman David Goreham prepare for the invasion on the return of the runners and walkers.

7 RAR EDINBURGH UPDATE

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) presence at Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) Base Butterworth is maintained under the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) that allows for the permanent stationing of an Army Rifle Company size group at Butterworth. Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB) is force assigned by Army Headquarters to Deployable Joint Force Headquarters (DJFHQ), and is subsequently allocated to 2nd/30th Training Group (2/30 Training Group) for the conduct of its deployment to Malaysia. The deployment is approximately three months in duration.

The deployment is a significant opportunity to conduct well structured training in environments unfamiliar to most Australian soldiers. The aim of RCB is to develop foundation warfighting (FWF) skills in a foreign regional environment and to achieve directed training outcomes. Rotations also provide opportunities to conduct Army international engagement (IE), approved individual training and approved non-corps specific training. While deployed, considerable flexibility exists to tailor a training program and company structure to match the circumstances and training needs of each RCB rotation. Regardless, RCB training objectives are to practise individual soldier skills, improve battle-shooting skills, develop command and leadership skills, practise FWF skills and corps specific field training up to sub-unit (Company) level, practise interoperability with the Malaysian Army (TDM), the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF), the Royal Thai Army (RTA) and other South East Asian armed forces; and become familiar with the operating environment in South East Asia, including terrain, climate, culture and language.

Alpha Company, 7th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment (A Coy 7 RAR)

formed the basis for RCB Rotation 106 (RCB-106) with augmentation from other elements of the 1st Brigade and the 16th Air Land Regiment. The company deployed in early May, and set about a busy training package that included acclimatisation and integration to the local environment.

Live fire range practices at the Gurun Range

Complex qualified and practiced personnel in 9mm SLP, M4 carbine, 40mm, 66mm, 84mm, F1 grenade and in EoTech, Viper Thermal, ACOG and Reflex

sights; practiced group and zero and application of fire for personal weapons (M4 carbine, F88, F89 and 7.62mm Tri-rail); practiced DFSW Ranges including 40mm (PRAC and HEDP), 66mm (21mm sub-cal and HEAT), and 84mm (PRAC, ILLUM and HEDP) weapons;



Ex Haringgaroo opening parade



Sgt Cormac Donaghue river crossing Sik National Park.

conducted a Standard Grenade practice, and an Assault Grenade practice introducing participants to advanced grenade practices using F3 and F1 in the standing, kneeling and lying positions, utilising covering fire and manoeuvre; practiced section attacks incorporating section level weapons (5.56mm, 7.62mm, 21mm and 40mm PRAC) and grenade (F3) targeting application of the break-in; testing junior leadership's ability to co-ordinate all stages of the attack (preparatory, assault, exploitation, re-org), section manoeuvre and weapon effects whilst under pressure, and to practice the recon patrol in break contacts.

Introduction to Jungle Operations at RMAF Butterworth

revised jungle Techniques, Tactics and Procedures (TTPs) taught via lessons delivered during the pre-deployment Jungle Training Wing Training Package. The Jungle Training Team (JTT) delivered lessons to Sect and Platoon Commanders and supervised battle preparation. Section / Platoon Commanders then delivered these lessons to their callsigns and practiced these TTPs.



Private Jacobs survival training Pulada

was to teach, revise and practice individual, section and platoon jungle warfare lessons, and develop the FWF and jungle operations capability of RCB-106 from section to platoon level within

Jungle Operations: Sik National Park.

The purpose of this activity



Recon patrol break contact Gurun Ranges

7 RAR EDINBURGH UPDATE

a company environment: Sections, accompanied by JTT directing staff (DS) rotated through satellite harbour positions practicing individual and section skills, before reforming and training as platoons.

Sections and platoons practiced harbour routine, ambushing, patrolling and attacks. RCB-106 then withdrew to RMAF Butterworth IOT refit to fight and to conduct battle procedure for Jungle Operations: Kulim.

Jungle Operations: Kulim National

Park. The purpose of this activity was to revise and practice platoon jungle warfare lessons, and develop the FWF and jungle operations capability of RCB-106 to platoon level within a company environment: platoons established harbours then rotated through a number of serials. This exercise confirmed platoons in jungle lessons, including platoon patrolling, ambushing, camp searches, and a deliberate attack. A key outcome of both Jungle Operations exercises was robust training in very hot, wet and humid conditions. JTT instructors provided high quality training advice and assistance to RCB-106, and were particularly flexible and 'user-friendly'.

RCBs meet extant bilateral exercise commitments when scheduled with units of the TDM (Malaysia). RCB-106 participated in a bilateral exercise with the Malaysian Army - **EX HARINGGAROO hosted by 15th Battalion, The Royal Malay Regiment at Negeri Sembilan** (an hour south of Kuala Lumpur) from 06 - 22 Jun 14. After the exercise, the company visited Terendak War Cemetery (notable for the graves of PTE N.G. Allen (7 RAR Vietnam) and MAJ P. Badcoe VC (AATTV), and the site of the famous 2/30 Bn ambush of the Japanese at Gemas/Gemenchech. At the end of this second month, the company took a week's leave in various areas of South East Asia.

On return to Butterworth, the company trained for and competed in the Champion Soldier (PTE J. Ayres) and Champion Section (CPL Wielozynski's section; callsign 12A) competition.

In the final stage of the rotation, RCB-106 deployed to **Pulada Ranges at Ulu Tiram** in the south of the country. Battle shooting activities on saw the Coy rotating through class range group and zero and snap / gallery ranges, an observation lane, and an individual and pairs Designer lane. RCB-106 held a memorial service for the 5 soldiers of 5/7 RAR killed in a truck accident at Pulada on 23 Sep 1993 at dawn on 13 July. The Malay School of Infantry Jungle Training Team (JTT) then presented lessons on jungle survival to RCB-106. Sections deployed with an instructor to the field overnight and the next day to practice. Live fire section attacks and fighting withdrawals by day incorporated

Claymores, 21mm sub-calibre rounds, 40mm practice rounds, 7.62mm and 5.56mm rounds. Live fire platoon attacks by day and night incorporated 84mm practice and illumination rounds, 21mm sub-calibre rounds, 40mm practice and illumination rounds, F3 Grenades, 7.62mm and 5.56mm rounds. Field firing movement boxes were applied to areas of dense jungle, requiring significant cutting of access tracks and layered control measures. The section survival challenge saw sections deployed at short notice into the jungle with minimal kit to test their survival skills, leadership and teamwork to conduct a number of activities. At the conclusion of this program RCB-106 crossed to Singapore by road.

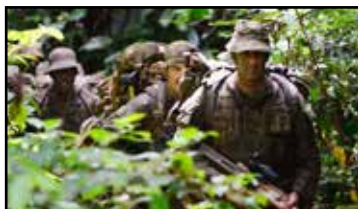
RCB-106 established accommodation at the **Murai Urban Training Facility (MUTF) in Singapore**. The company took a history tour guided by the Deputy Defence Attache

- Singapore, LTCOL Mic Doyle, visiting Changi chapel and Kranji war cemetery, and concluded with dinner out in Singapore. The company received training on the **Infantry Gunnery Training Simulator (IGTS) at Pasir Laba Camp, Singapore**. Platoon Commanders

were trained on operations in the command room; Platoon members were introduced to operating various SAF weapons: P226 pistol, SAR-31 assault rifle, Matador anti-armour weapon, Spike anti-armour weapon, and the Automatic Grenade Launcher. RCB conducted revision/lessons on urban operations at the MUTF, before platoons rotated through a series of scenarios based around various threat levels within the MUTF. Platoons were challenged with escalation of force scenarios, then embarked on a jungle patrol requiring a transition between the jungle and urban fringe, before encountering an urban battle lane testing Rules Of Engagement, Command and Control and individual and team skills. RCB-106 crossed back into Malaysia on 24 Jul, and returned to Butterworth to begin the process of

preparing for the handover to the next rotation.

RCB-106 completed a successful, safe and enjoyable tour. A Coy, 7 RAR and attachments developed into a cohesive unit with high morale. RCB-106 qualified many personnel in a range of weapons systems and conducted complex live fire range practices utilizing significant quantities of ammunition; conducted challenging training at the section and platoon level in arduous jungle terrain; achieved very good IE outcomes with both Malaysian and Singaporean forces; and visited a number of significant Australian cultural and military history sites. Junior officers and NCOs have practiced and developed their leadership. The Coy's planning and battle procedures have been tested and refined; the Coy is well postured to reintegrate with the Battalion and continue through the Force Generation Cycle training continuum.



Cpl Taylor and section Kulim National Park



Recon patrol break contact Gurun Ranges



Sneaker lane Pulada Ranges

Long Tan combined regiments commemoration

On Monday 18 August 2014 the RAR Association SA and the RAAC Vietnam Veterans Association SA conducted a combined regiments' commemorative service in the RAR Clubrooms to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan of 18 August 1966.

The service was conducted indoors due to the history of wet weather during August in Adelaide.

For their actions during the Battle both the Royal Australian Regiment and the 3rd Cavalry Regiment were awarded the battle honour Long Tan.

6 RAR was awarded the United States of America Presidential Unit Citation for its actions during the Battle. D Company 6 RAR lost 17 men KIA during the battle and the 1st

APC Squadron lost one man DOW as the result of wounds received during the battle.

The service was combined regiments in nature with both the infantry and armour having key roles.

The Master of Ceremonies was **Russell Campbell**, OAM. **Rodney Graham**, Vice President RAR Association SA, stood in for President Michael von Berg, MC, who was interstate, for the welcome address with RAR historian **Fred Fairhead** delivering the Commemorative Address.

Rob Wallace, the President 6 RAR SA, read the Presidential Unit Citation and the Roll of Honour and RAR Pipe Major **Des Ross** provided piper support.

The armoured corps was represented by the President RAAC Vietnam Veterans Association SA **Craig Haydock** who recited the Ode while D Squadron 1st Armoured Regiment (an APC unit) provided the catafalque party.

Catherine Lambert and The Terrace Singers provided choral items while bugler support was provided by 10/27 RSAR. Chaplain **Peter Ryan** of the Central Region provided chaplaincy support.

A notable feature of the service was the flying of both the Australian flag and the Republic of Vietnam flag; a first time at Burnside.

Lunch in the clubrooms followed. Veterans SA kindly provided a grant for the service and lunch.

Adrian Craig,
Ceremonial



Bragg MP Vicki Chapman chats with choir members Ros and Jennie.

Lt. Col. Fred Fairhead and his wife Di with their daughter and son-in-law Anne and Jon Codd and their children Laurence, 6, and Madeleine, 7, of Manchester.



Catherine Lambert (right), with members of her choir, has been a staunch supporter of the RARA SA for many years. She composed the music for the Association's prayer so they sing it as a hymn. Front from left: Ros Durand, Jennie Dyster, Christine Mason, Rosemary Bilac and Catherine Lambert. Back: Julie Maslen, Junia Melo, Julie House, Margaret Lambert and Liz Love.



Above and far right opposite page: Some of the guests at the commemoration. Right: Chaplain Peter Ryan of Central Region places a poppy in the wreath held by Membership Officer Tony Boyce. Far right: 6 RAR SA President Robert Wallace reading the Presidential Citation and Roll of Honour.



Long Tan combined regiments commemoration

Once again I commend the association for turning out for the 2014 annual Service for the Battle of Long Tan.

As a Regimental Battle Honour, this is extremely important as it was the first to be won by a Battalion of the Regiment since the Korean War.

Much has been written about this battle, but I believe, with the exception of Fred Fairhead's book *A Duty Done* not enough credit has been given to the individual soldier who fought this battle.

Consider this, D Coy had only been in the country some two months, barely enough time to acclimatise.

At the time, battle ammunition was 60 rounds, 3 loaded mags plus 2 bandoleers 100 rounds in clips per rifleman. The section M60 had 500 rounds split between them and another 500 rounds still in their thick plastic covered boxes.

Imagine fighting a two+ hour battle in the rain and mud, attempting to reload as taught, mag between the knees in kneeling position, inserting your 20 rounds per mag in 60 seconds under intense fire only a foot above your

head. It gives a new meaning to one shot one kill.

The battle discipline required by these men, in my view, has never been fully recognised.

On the other hand the enemy rifleman were carrying 10+ 30 round mags, fully automatic AK 47s, backed up by both light and heavy

"I will never forget my feelings that day. It was A Duty Done".

MGs light and heavy RPGs and mortars, and a regiment of them to boot.

For those on us who swept the Battle Field the next morning, three memories are imprinted in the brain - the absolute devastation of the artillery bombardment, the finding among that devastation the two survivors, and locating the fallen still in the prone position with rifle to the shoulder facing the enemy.

**Rod Graham
Vice President
RARA SA**

Ex B Coy 6 RAR 66/67



MC Russell Campbell, OAM, with representatives of Vietnamese Veterans' Association organisation always fun to chat with.



Pipe Major Des Ross chats with catafalque party members from D Squadron 1st Armoured Regiment Craftsman C. B. Clark, Cpl A. J. Walsh, Lcpl. H S Braithwaite, CFN D.C. Southwood, reserve CFN D.M. Daff and Private D. J. Healy.

Right: Fred Fairhead giving the Commemorative Address.



Vicki Chapman, MP for Bragg, and Frances Bedford, MP for Florey, long time supporters of RARA SA, with Membership Officer Tony Boyce and the founder of Trojan's Trek Moose Dunlop.



Former Colonel appointed Veterans' SA Director after Bill Denny retires

After some six years as Veterans' SA Director, **Bill Denny** has retired. The RARA thanks Bill for his sterling service and his achievements in this vital roll. There are simply too many to mention but of particular importance for the veterans of South Australia was the forming of the Veterans' Advisory Council chaired by the eminent former Governor of South Australia, the Hon Sir Eric Neal AC CVO FTSE.



Bill Denny at the Aboriginal memorial at Torrens Parade Ground.

The search for a new Veterans' SA Director has been extensive and our Minister, the Hon Martin Hamilton Smith MP, recently announced the appointment of Rob Manton as the new director.

Rob, an ex-colonel, has an abundance of experience and, by all reports, an abundance of energy which he is going to need in managing what is becoming an increasing area of need for more recent contemporary veterans while still listening and caring for older veterans. The members of the RARA and our Battalion Associations wish Rob all of the very best in his new role. We all look forward to working with him. Rob's very impressive CV for those that are interested is below.

**Michael von Berg MC
President**

As a former member of the Australian Regular Army, Bill Denny saw active service in the Vietnam War. Highlights of his military career included service in Papua New Guinea, appointment as aide-de-camp to the Governor-General and service with the British Army. Bill has also been Chair of the RSL ANZAC Day Committee for 16 years, was founder of the ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil Ceremony and instigator of the Vietnam War Memorial. Bill serves as Chair of the State ANZAC Day Commemoration Council and is patron of many veterans' organisations. A strong sense of social justice and a passion for Aboriginal equality led Bill to complete a law degree as a mature age student. He is a Board Member of Reconciliation SA, co-Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial Fundraising Committee and represents South Australia in the planning for the ANZAC Centenary.

Veterans' Affairs Minister **Martin Hamilton-Smith** has announced that **Rob Manton** has been appointed as the new Director of Veterans SA.

Mr Manton leaves his role within the Federal Department of Veterans' Affairs Income Support and Grants Branch, bringing a wealth of experience and knowledge to Veterans' Affairs.

"I congratulate Mr Manton on his appointment," Mr Hamilton-Smith said.

"Mr Manton served in the Australian Defence Force for 30 years, where he reached the rank of Colonel.

"He has received five commendations including the Bronze Star for high order leadership skills and outstanding performance of duty in Iraq, the Chief of Army's Commendation for exemplary leadership and management skills, along with a Meritorious Service

Medal from the Commanding General of the US Command and General Staff College for excellence in delivering training.

"Mr Manton is a strategic thinker and highly capable leader.

"As a former adviser to the Australian Ambassador to the United Nations, he led Australian delegations to a variety of UN committees involving the 192 Member States.

"He was instrumental in developing a plan for Australia's candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council.

"As an independent consultant Mr Manton also led an international campaign to progress the issue of protection of civilians in UN peacekeeping missions.

"He previously held the position of Assistant Chief Of Staff of the Multi-National Force in Iraq, and was responsible for coordinating the strategic planning and operational efforts of over 850 military staff."

Mr Manton was selected for the Senior Executive Leadership Course at the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies and the Executive Leadership Program. He holds a Master of Arts (Strategic Studies) through Deakin University and a Graduate Diploma in Management Studies.

"As a former member of the Australian Defence Force I have a keen interest in military history and the importance of the commemorative years ahead. I am acutely aware of the unique demands that military service places on individuals and their families," Mr Manton said.

Veterans SA promotes Australia's wartime history and the significance of national events. It also supports the special needs of the veteran community resulting from the unique nature of military service.

Mr Manton began his role as Veterans' SA Director on October 21.



Rob Manton (right) with Martin Hamilton Smith.



Noel Smith, our much beloved Honorary RSM, is currently laid up in hospital terrorizing the nurses and hospital staff. Noel is in hospital for a procedure and I know I speak on behalf of everyone in the Association in wishing Noel a speedy recovery. His wit and indisputable

forthrightness and RSM's charm is badly missed in the club and committee meetings. Get well soon, Noel. Hopefully you will be out to terrorize us for Christmas.

We also send greetings to all members and their family members who are unwell and wish them a return to good health in the near future.

**Michael von Berg
President**

Cross-section of supporters at Christmas festivity



City of Charles Sturt Councillor Oanh Nguyen, Bragg MP Vicki Chapman and Burnside Mayor David Parkinson.



New RAR RSL Treasurer Steven Roberts, Florey MP Frances Bedford and Denise Whelan, wife of 3 RAR Association President Bob Whelan.



Korean War veterans (from left) Peter Scott, Dr Donald Beard and Patrick Forbes.



Chef Colin Abel hands out savouries to Soldier On State Manager Justin Brown (left) and newly-appointed Director of Veterans SA Rob Manton.



Bar Manager Neil Nicholls and Club Manager Greg Dwiwar with the Christmas cake from Florey MP Frances Bedford.



Di Lewis, right, wife of RARA SA Patron Laurie Lewis, with Kerri Sutton, wife of Neil Sutton, a war memorabilia collector, below, presenting a plaque featuring VC winners to Club Manager Greg Dwiwar.



President Michael von Berg congratulates Rob Manton on his appointment as the new Director of Veterans SA. With them are Vice President Rod Graham and RARA SA Patron Laurie Lewis.



The plaque features a photo and detailed caption of the WW1 VC recipients at the top and the names of other winners below. In 1968 Neil, an electrician, worked with the American Army with the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam. He bought the plaque online but it was larger than he imagined.



Tim and Marian Harper of Pioneer Water Tanks SA, who provide transport for Trojan's Trek projects, with Trek founder Moose Dunlop, OAM.

Among the guests were always fun Vietnamese Veterans Association members Tay Van Nguyen, Dr Tam Nguyen, Thu Do, Minh Nguyen and Tay Nguyen. They are seen with Laurie and Di Lewis, Bill Denny and Soldier On State Manager Justin Brown.



Long Tan bursary to Chelsea Duthie



The winner of Long Tan Bursary 2014 is **Chelsea Duthie**, daughter of **Ken Duthie** who served with 3RAR, 8RAR, 8/9RAR, attached to 5/7RAR and headquarters 1Brigade. Chelsea is studying health science at the University of Adelaide. The bursary is for \$3000 a year for three years. Chelsea was presented with her Certificate of Award by the Commissioner for DVA SA, **Ian Kelly** (pictured left) and **Debbie Fahey** from AVCAT. The presentation was held at

Blackburn House in Adelaide at the Long Tan Award Ceremony on Friday July 18.

Chelsea's dad and her mum, **Amanda White**, were present. They said that as parents they are "extremely proud of their daughter's academic achievements and that she had been selected as the recipient of the 2014 award".

Other awardees attended, receiving the awards from the RSL, VVA and other organisations.

Ken said: "To all concerned at DVA and AVCAT, we say "thank you" for all the assistance provided, from the submission of the application and the award of the bursary to the presentation."

Church's *Meet the Ancestors* event commemorated start of World War I

The World War I commemoration *Meet the Ancestors* at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Adelaide was more than a history lesson for 14-year-old **Jordan Mutton**.

His great-grandfather **Gilbert Thomas Mutton's story** was among those shared during the evening supported by History Officer **Ken Duthie**.

Jordan said: "I learned a lot more about my great-grandfather's life, his story and even his personality. The best thing is that I now feel close to him even though I never knew him."

About 400 people attended the National Family History Month which marked the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I with a range of ancestor profiles, displays and stories, each highlighting individuals and families caught up in the conflict. Jordan's ancestor enlisted with the Australian Imperial Force at 17 and served at the Western Front, surviving a trench attack which killed all his digger mates.

Coordinator **Caroline McIlwaine** said the commemoration provided a snapshot of a much larger World War I family. "One of the SA-born ancestor received a Victoria Cross for valour; another lied about his age and enlisted at 16; another wrote a will on the eve of the first Battle of the Somme knowing he wouldn't survive - these were real people who lived during terrible yet remarkable times.

"It's not at all unusual for today's generation to want to know more about their forebears and to honour their legacy without in any way glorifying war."

The youngest presenter was 16-year-old **Duncan Black** who spoke on his experience and feelings about a recent visit Flanders, Belgium, in the century-old footsteps of great grandfather **Charles James Black** who enlisted with the British Royal Marines at his age.

"For me, discovering my great grandfather's story of his life and war service has been really enjoyable. Instead of seeing a name on a family tree I now know a lot about the person he was and feel privileged to be carrying on his name," Duncan said.

"He was in the Signal Section of the Portsmouth Battalion at the start of the war. This meant he made to build radios from scratch in a trench to be moved at

night over no man's land. This was quite a dangerous job and I think it's a miracle that I'm here today."

Premier **Jay Weatherill** sent a message acknowledging the valour and sacrifice of South Australian's World War families. "We remember the more than 6000 South



Australians who sacrificed their lives to protect all Australians and our allies in battles at Gallipoli, the Somme, Ypres, Passchendaele and many others. No family or community was left untouched by the terrible tragedy of young lives lost in the conflict and the many memorials in every city and country town bear testament to the courage and sacrifice of these outstanding young men and women who created a culture

of valour, selflessness and mateship."

State Liberal Leader **Steven Marshall** said: "Some of life's most valuable lessons can be found in the history pages of our country and indeed the world. It's imperative we continue to learn about

our ancestors to better understand the world we live in today. As a community we must all work together to ensure the legacy of our World War I servicemen and women is not forgotten."

Displays featured photos, letters, medals, attestation papers and medical notes including a framed exhibit with an original map and notes by **Charles Black** during his war service.

School Military Project Officer **Ken Duthie** displayed a vast collect of uniforms, medal and memorabilia sharing the stories linked to each. **Alan Griffiths** from the Museum of Childhood described toys and outlined facts from 100 years ago along with information about the SA Schools Patriotic Fund.

"The Great War affected those left at home. The children present enjoyed learning what it was like for their counterparts back then - how they played, what they missed out on and how they supported soldiers."

The event included a Wall of Remembrance bedecked with poppies and names of fallen soldiers; the opportunity to start family history research at the Firlie Family History; refreshment of ANZAC biscuits, hot chocolate, ANZAC biscuits and damper.

From material supplied by **Caroline McIlwaine**.

Combined regiments commemorative service for Hat Dich day 19 February 2015

On Thursday 19 February 2015 the RAR Association SA and the RAAC Vietnam Veterans Association SA will conduct the annual Hat Dich Day Commemorative Service at the RAR Association clubrooms at Linden Park at 11am. The battle honour Hat Dich was presented to the Royal Australian Regiment and the 3rd Cavalry Regiment for their actions on Operation GOODWOOD from the 3 December 1968 to the 19 February 1969 in the Hat Dich Secret Zone southeast of Saigon. The operation involved Australians and New Zealanders plus the United States of America and the Republic of Vietnam on the Allies side and mainly 274 VC Regiment on the enemy side. The Australians and New Zealanders lost 26 men killed with:

- Infantry; 1 RAR three, 4 RAR/ NZ six (including one New Zealander), 9 RAR 14 and SASR one; almost all as a result of small arms fire at close range.



- Armour; 1st Armoured Regiment one and 3rd Cavalry Regiment one; both as a result of anti-tank mines.

The Commemorative Address will be given by the President of the RAAC

Vietnam Veterans Association SA, Craig Haydock.

Craig was an APC section commander during Operation GOODWOOD.

Other units with war dead from Operation GOODWOOD will also have key roles in the service.

Weather permitting the service will be conducted in front of the RSL clubrooms. It will be followed by a light lunch inside.

Current service and ex-service members are requested to wear decorations and medals as a mark of respect to our war dead.

The contact is Adrian Craig, Ceremonial RAR Association SA on 8263 4784 and as.craig9rar@bigond.com

Adrian Craig
Ceremonial



*LCPL Wayne Reddick, Section 2IC 2 Section
10 Platoon D Company 9 RAR in early
January 1969.*

WE ARE WHAT WE THINK Part 4

“Just Do It!”

This is part 4 in my series on “We are what we think.” For those who don’t remember or don’t care, let me do a quick refresh.

1. Life is unpredictable and how we think shapes reality.
2. Awareness is the key to starting the change process.
3. Acceptance generates new energy.

Today I want you to do a “Nike” – Just Do It. Throughout history when things seem over whelming humans have tended to procrastinate - 3000 years ago the writer of Proverbs said “Don’t put it off. Do it now! Don’t rest until you do.” (Proverbs chapter 6, verse 4, Living Bible).

Don Marquis suggests “Procrastination is the art of keeping up with yesterday”.

Both suggest action is required to compensate for difficulties that occur in life.

Every passing day when we fail to respond to the changes around us because of over-thinking or letting the past define us is another day that can overwhelm us.

My wife and I are currently undertaking the daunting task of repainting a house. Our mantra is: “One room at a time!” In other words rather than getting over-awed, leading to procrastination, we have organised the task into manageable sizes and we Just Do it. This allows us to not get consumed by anxiety and keeps us focussed at working through this big job. Similarly with our lives: one day, one week, one year at a time.

In summary I am inviting you to recognise that, in the midst of an unpredictable world, our awareness of how we feel and think about our lives is directly impacted by accepting, rather than denying what has happened. Meaning, we begin to generate new life as we “Just Do it”, live each day on its own merits without past baggage.

PS. On a personal note, my days as the Pig Battalion Padre are ending. From January 15, Chaplain Ken Schmidt arrives, while I move into the South Australian Regional Coordinating Chaplain role. Bye from me and hello to Ken.

Go the pigs.



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

Sincere thanks to all those who assisted with the publication of the December 2014 issue of *Infantryman*. Your contributions, suggestions and, most of all, proofing are much appreciated. Proofing is not an easy job but essential. They include Michael von Berg, Lynn Graham, Greg Dwiar, Peter Scott, Adrian Craig and all the others including those whose names appear with articles.

- Penelope Forster, Editor.

FROM THE BATTALIONS

3 RAR

3 RAR SA has once again been busy with commemorative, social and fundraising activities.

Commemorative

The Battalion conducted its annual Maryang San Commemorative service at the RAR Association Clubrooms on Tuesday October 7.

Two veterans of the Battle of Maryang San of 2-8 October 1951 attended the service; **Peter Scott**, Intelligence Officer, and **Reg Anock**, rifleman in 3 Platoon. Both veterans went on to serve in the Vietnam War.

Support was provided by 7 RAR catafalque party, 3 Health Services Battalion (chaplain), Army Band Adelaide (bugler) and Catherine Lambert and The Terrace Singers. Lunch followed in the clubrooms.

The Battalion thanks Veterans SA for their grant which covered most of the costs for the service and lunch.

Social

We moved our bi-monthly lunch to the Lord Melbourne Hotel on Friday October 10 and those attending were happy with the new venue. Photos right.

On Saturday October 18 we conducted a quiz night at the RAR Clubrooms, our second this year. Again **Neville Nichols** and his team conducted a very merry and successful evening. Pictured right bottom.

On Sunday November 23 we held our annual Battalion Birthday-Christmas function at the RAR Clubrooms.

Fundraising

We continue to conduct fundraising, mainly sausage sizzles at Kent Town and Windsor Gardens Bunnings. We also conduct raffles at our various social functions plus apply for grants for our major commemorative services.

Adrian Craig, 3 RAR



3 RAR President Bob Whelan presents replica medals to Brian Cooper, brother of Alan Cooper KIA 1968. Alan's Commemorative Service was held by his grave site Centennial Park earlier this year.



Commemorative activities January to March 2015

The first quarter of the year is usually a busy time for commemorative services for the Regiment and Battalions and 2015 is no different.

9 RAR SA has commemorative services for seven of their war dead in January and February related to Operation Goodwood of January and February 1969 and one in March relating to Operation Federal in March 1969.

8 RAR SA has arranged its annual Long Hai Day commemorative service on the Pathway of Honour at 1100 hours on Saturday February 28 to honour their eight men killed on Operation Hammersley on 28 February 1970.

3 RAR SA will conduct a commemorative service for one of their war dead from Operation Coburg (killed 18 February 1968). The service will be at Mt Barker at 1000 hrs on Wednesday February 18.

3 RAR SA will also conduct a commemorative service for two of their war dead (both 10 Platoon) killed on 2 March 1971 during Operation PHOI HOP. The service will be held at the RAR Clubrooms at 1100hrs Monday March 2.

The Regiment will conduct its annual Hat Dich commemorative service at the RAR Association Clubrooms at 1100 hrs Thursday February 19 to honour their war dead from Operation GOODWOOD - 3 December 1968 to 19 February 1969.

The service will be a combined regiments' service with the SASR Association and the RAAC Vietnam Association having key roles. A total of 26 Australians and New Zealanders were killed on the operation.

**Adrian Craig,
Ceremonial Officer**

FROM THE BATTALIONS



9 RAR

The Port Pirie RSL Sub Branch and Military Museum (above) was recently enlarged to include an Iroquois (Huey) Helicopter. Helicopters were icons of the Vietnam war and this particular chopper was last used in 2007.

The opening ceremony on Saturday August 15 was a proud day for President **Haydn Madigan** and members of this very active RSL sub-branch. Haydn served in Vietnam with 9 RAR and the SA committee commends Haydn for his initiative and expertise in bringing this long and complicated project to fruition. It is a credit to the persistence, perseverance and co-operation of the members of the Port Pirie RSL Sub Branch.

Many veterans and families took the opportunity to travel from Adelaide on the coach organised by the TPI Association.

"A visit to the Museum is a must, not only for veterans but for all to remember those who served and paid the supreme sacrifice."

Port Pirie RSL Sub Branch: 294 The Terrace, Port Pirie SA 5540. Phone: 8632 1448 www.portpirie.rslsa.org.au www.vietnamveteranshonourroll.com Vietnam Veteran Radio Show with Haydn Madigan: Trax FM 105.1 at 6pm - 8pm every Monday. Traxfm coverage from Kadina to Jamestown, Peterborough and Whyalla.

Jan Stacey

9 RAR

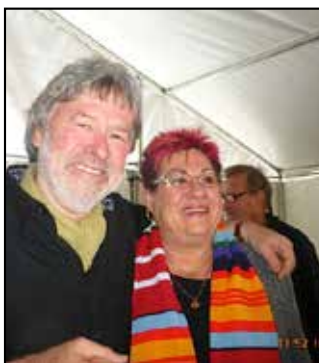
The Battalion is nearing the end of the 13-month long number of activities to mark its tour in South Vietnam (November 1968 to December 1969) during which we lost 35 men.

In January 2015 we will conduct six commemorative services for our war dead from Operation GOODWOOD and another for the same operation in February.

In March we will conduct a commemorative service for one of our war dead killed in March 1969.

Our AGM was conducted at the Goolwa RSL on Saturday November 15 with the committee unchanged - President David Stacey, Vice President Michael Mummery, Secretary Bob Plummer and Vice President Gene Costa, Our replacement banners are still being produced. When completed one will be hung in the RAR Clubrooms.

Adrian Craig, 9 RAR



Above: Singer/songwriter John Schumann, who sang a very moving rendition of "I was only 19" during the opening ceremony, and Lyn Stead of Port Broughton RSL.

Right: Haydn and Laraine Madigan.



Friends of 9 RAR SA: Bill Corey, 2/43rd AIF, and Simon Kelly, Early Career Teacher Consultant, Catholic Education.



Rear Admiral Clint Thomas AM CSC RAN; David Stacey, President 9 RAR SA; and Michael Mummery, Vice President 9 RAR SA Inc.



9 RAR members David Stacey, President 9 RAR SA; Jim Fisher, Trevor Scarman and Haydn Madigan, President, Port Pirie RSL Sub Branch.

Royal Australian Regiment Association Committee 2014-2015

Patron Laurie Lewis AM

Elected Positions

President	Michael von Berg MC	0411 870 055
	mvb@michaelvonberg.com	
Vice President	Rod Graham	0427 977 145
	rodg2@bigpond.com.au	
Secretary	Bob Whinnen	0413 189 558
	rwhinnen@bigpond.com.au	
Treasurer	Tony J Boyce	0431 987 699
Membership	tjb1@adam.com.au	

Appointed Committee Positions

Webmaster	Mike Bevan	0416 106 578
Assistant Treasurer	mikeb3@netspace.net.au	
Manager - Club	Greg Dwair	0412 644 749
	subpol@nuskope.com.au	
Manager - Ceremonial	Adrian Craig	8263 4784
	as.craig9rar@bigpond.com	
Welfare Officer	Lyn Fisher	8371 3090
	fishernine@gmail.com	

Trojan's Trek

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

Voluntary Positions

Manager - Bar	Neil Nicholls	0488 050 810
	neilnicholls1946@gmail.com	8369 1957
Editor - Infantryman	Penelope Forster	8367 9905
	penelopeforster01@gmail.com	

Battalion Representatives

1 RAR John Genovese	genovese@bigpond.net.au	8265 0524
2 RAR Malcolm Allen	mal@aladco.com.au	0451 374 133
3 RAR Robert Whelan	wheelsdenise@internode.on.net	8387 9979
4 RAR Andy Buckingham	sandandy@dodo.com.au	8356 4676
5 RAR Mos Hancock	moswhan@bigpond.net.au	8556 2732
5/7 RAR Paul Jordan	pjaye62@yahoo.com	0416 059 462
6 RAR Rob Wallace	rwallace14@hotmail.com	0407 227 471
7 RAR Chris Ashenden	cashende@bigpond.net.au	0417 892 561
8 RAR Ted Forward	adriane.ted.forward@bigpond.com	82351 625
9 RAR Adrian Craig	as.craig9rar@bigpond.com	8263 4784

RAR (SA) RSL Sub-Branch

President	Rod Graham	0427 977 145
Secretary	Lynn Graham	8431 3491
Treasurer	Steven Roberts	0408 108 643

Headquarters and Clubroom

13 Beatty Street, Linden Park, SA 5065

Phone: (08) 8379 5771

Website: www.rarsa.org.au

Email: rar01@internode.on.net

Club Activities Dec - May 2015

Inaugural 'Fox' golf day in March

Expressions of interest in taking part in the inaugural RAR Association SA Mike Dennis Golf Day on Monday 23 March 2015 should be registered with Ken Duthie by Tuesday January 20. He can be contacted on 8333 3148 or 0418 806 172 or when you see him at the club. It will be held at North Adelaide Golf course over 18 holes on the south course with hit off at 0800hrs. Cost \$21. A stableford competition - groups of four where possible. Points earned for or depending on score for each hole - eagle, birdie, par, bogey and double bogey or worse (no points). No handicap recorded or given, an allocated handicap of 27 giving 1½ strokes per hole. Equipment hire available - check with Ken. Various trophies including overall winner. Refreshments available.

		<u>MEAL</u>
<u>Dec</u>	5	<i>Light meal</i>
	12	<i>Ladies night, Xmas Dinner</i>
	19	<i>Light meal</i>
		<i>Closed for Xmas break</i>
<u>Jan</u>	16	<i>Club re-opens</i>
	16	<i>Light meal</i>
	23	<i>Ladies night, 3 Course Meal</i>
	30	<i>Light meal</i>
<u>Feb</u>	6	<i>Light meal</i>
	13	<i>Ladies night, 3 Course Meal</i>
	19	<i>Hat Dich Day 9RAR</i>
	20	<i>Chef's Choice, 2 Course meal</i>
	27	<i>Light meal</i>
<u>Mar</u>	6	<i>Light meal</i>
	13	<i>Ladies night, 3 Course Meal</i>
	20	<i>Light meal</i>
	23	<i>Chef's Choice, 2 Course meal</i>
	27	<i>Light meal</i>
<u>Apr</u>	3	<i>Club Closed EASTER</i>
	10	<i>Ladies night, 3 Course Meal</i>
	17	<i>Light meal</i>
	21	<i>Chef's Choice, 2 Course Meal</i>
	24	<i>Kapyong Day</i>
	25	<i>ANZAC Day Club Closed</i>
<u>May</u>	1	<i>Light meal</i>
	8	<i>Ladies night, 3 Course Meal</i>
	15	<i>Light meal</i>
	22	<i>Chef's Choice, 2 Course Meal</i>
	29	<i>Light meal</i>