



INFANTRYMAN

The Journal of the RAR Association SA
Keeping the Spirit Alive

December 2015



Lt Col Ted Chitham MC OAM (Rtd) (4th from left) was guest of honour at the club on October 30. He delighted members with his informality as he recalled amusing incidents during his childhood and years in the Army. He is seen with (from left) RARA SA Secretary Jim Stopford, Jim Fisher, Lt Col Peter Scott (Rtd), Ed Czerwinski, Lt Col Fred Fairhead (Rtd) and RARA SA Vice President Rod Graham.

VETERAN SA DIRECTOR'S GLENSIDE PLAN REPORT

World-class infrastructure to embrace innovation

The State Government's commitment to the development of a post-traumatic stress centre of excellence will ensure we improve our understanding of the effects of trauma on the health and well-being of our service personnel and emergency services staff. The Expert Advisory Panel Report on the Post-Traumatic Stress Centre for Excellence has recommended a new site be developed at the Glenside Campus.

The panel was established in March 2015 to recommend an appropriate location for the facility and propose a model of care for veterans' mental health services. While staff at the existing Ward 17 at the Repat do a fantastic job looking after our veterans, as a Government we know we can do more to support those workers with new facilities and our veterans with state-of-the-art care.

The new facility will provide world-class infrastructure which embraces innovation, takes full advantage of technology and medical advances and is flexible to meet the challenges of the future.

Glenside Health Services Campus not only meets these requirements, but offers opportunities to build upon the expertise, dedication, culture and traditions of existing

Ward 17 services, and bring together clinical leaders, academic researchers and veteran support groups.

The site will also allow us to explore partnerships with Commonwealth and Non-Government organisations such as the Returned and Services League (RSL) and Soldier On to develop a one-stop-shop for veterans. The State Government has earmarked the Repatriation General Hospital site for healthcare, ageing, teaching and community related purposes.

A Registration of Interest process to identify possible uses for the site closed on 22 May 2015, with 30 registrations received - mainly from health, aged care, education providers and community organisations. This indicates strong interest in the potential community benefits and innovative opportunities a renewed site could provide.

An Expression of Interest process to seek formal proposals from organisations is underway and decisions about the future of the site are likely to be made in the first half of 2016.

- Rob Manton

Director, Veterans SA
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The President of the RARA Michael von Berg and Committee Members wish Members and their families a happy Festive Season and a fulfilling and healthy New Year.

Sub-Committee to consider Welfare Account Guidelines

A sub-committee is to be appointed to receive and propose grants. The sub-committee will consist of RARA SA Patron Laurie Lewis, Fred Fairhead and Membership Officer Carol van der Peet. The sub-committee will forward their recommendations, after due diligence, to the President and Vice-President for consideration. These two, together with one other representative of the sub-committee, will have final authority to approve any grant. Grants are not expected to be repaid, but should the circumstances change, the grant recipient may repay the full amount, or part thereof, to the Welfare Account.

1. Guidelines for individuals

- a. the recipient must have served in the Royal Australian Regiment,
- b. the situation must involve hardship as defined by the sub-committee,
- c. the maximum amount available per case of hardship is \$3000.

2. Guidelines for Groups or Projects

- a. the Activity being supported be for the benefit of RAR Veterans,
- b. the maximum amount available be \$5,000 per annum,
- c. the Activity precludes any person receiving personal gain from the financial support.

3. General Organisation of the Welfare Account

- a. any fundraising activity that involves topping up the Welfare Account be clearly advised to all participants,
- b. once the Welfare Account reaches a figure of \$100 in available funds, further support will be suspended,
- c. the Welfare Account is a stand-alone account and is not topped up from other RARA SA accounts such as the Trading or Investment Accounts.

Michael von Berg MC OAM

President

10 November 2015

ON PAST REFLECTION

Need for treatment and research imperative

Since Federation, over 102,000 Australian servicemen and women have paid the ultimate sacrifice in theatres of operation around the world.

While we rightly remember and commemorate their sacrifice we must also remember those who returned wounded, either physically or emotionally, and their families and carers who were left to deal with the effects of their exposure to war.

Sadly we are a nation that is still at war.

There are currently 2,241 service personnel deployed on operations globally.

Since 1999 the Australian Defence Force has conducted over 80,000 deployments.

We need to be conscious of the effects that service, whether operational or otherwise, has on those who choose the profession of arms.

I reflect on the case of World War I veterans, **Rachael Pratt** and **Harold Candy** (pictured).

Sister Pratt nursed the wounded in Turkey, France and elsewhere. In 1917, while Germans attacked her casualty clearing station, Rachael worked despite the shrapnel that had pierced through her back and lodged in her lungs, until she collapsed.

Rachael was awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous gallantry under fire. She never recovered fully from her injuries, suffering chronic bronchitis for the rest of her life. And she never recovered from the trauma.



Eventually Rachael was deemed totally and permanently incapacitated and admitted to a hospital for the insane. Sister Pratt died in Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital in 1954.

When Rachael returned home we didn't know much about post-traumatic stress, or shell shock as it was known then. We know more now but there is still much we need to learn.

Lance Corporal Harold Candy came home to Adelaide, his body ravaged by battles at Pozieres and Hamel and having suffered the effects of many illnesses.

Tormented by his physical and mental scars, in 1921 Harold took his own life. He didn't die on the battlefields of France and although it was nearly three years after the Armistice, Harold was certainly a casualty of war - so too his devastated fiancée.

These reflections highlight the need for mental health treatment and research.

The State Government's commitment to the development of a post-traumatic stress centre of excellence will ensure we improve our understanding of the effects of trauma on the health and well-being of our service personnel and emergency services staff.



- Rob Manton
Director, Veterans SA

FROM THE COMMAND POST

Where has the year gone? It seems like yesterday that I wrote the last Christmas message.

Is it because we are all that busy? Oblivious to time and space. Missing chunks in our lives or just moving so fast (a bit of a paradox at our age) we don't notice the passing of time.

We seem to be very aware of the seasons - too cold, too hot, too wet, too windy and too humid but much to the chagrin of our ladies, important things like birthdays and anniversaries sometimes seem to slip through the cracks.

But Christmas in our society and culture simply cannot be forgotten because of the commercialisation of the event in almost every facet of our lives.

Thankfully this will continue because it is a time of goodwill and giving thanks for the year past to the many family, friends, work associates and members of the ADF, Border Protection and Federal and State Police who keep us safe.

The "head shed" at the RARA (SA) has once again done an outstanding job.

Rod who keeps us all on track. Spike - who has such boundless energy. Adrian - our ceremonial organising guru. Mike - the keeper of the purse. Jim - our secretary. Bob - thanks for your time in this role. Colin - the culinary master. Neil - in keeping the beer cold and up to us. Lynn Graham - and her interpretive challenges of recording the minutes. Ken - who is back on school history duty. Carol - on membership and other projects. Penelope and Bruce - Infantryman editor and photographer. And our volunteers such as Mal, Dave, Tim and others who always pitch in to assist where necessary.

We are delighted that the 2/4 RAR Association under the leadership of Kim Porter is now active as a part of the Association in SA and 5/7 RAR Association under the leadership of Chris Shannon, likewise.

The 4 RAR Association, after a long time, is very actively back in the fold and, with the Battalion still being on the "order of battle", it's important for those ex-members of the Battalion to "keep the spirit alive" because in the current tempo of ADF activities you just never know what may happen in the future.

All of our Battalion Associations are represented, some better than others, and we thank those Battalions for their support.

I also thank the State Government for its support, through the Minister the Hon Martin **Hamilton-Smith**; **Francis Bedford** MP, our number one ticket holder; **Duncan McFetridge** MP, a great friend as shadow Veterans Minister; the VAC through the Hon **Sir Eric Neil** and **Rob Manton**; and the friendship and support of the Officers, NCOs and Soldiers of 7RAR, our resident Battalion.

The Battalion Group is deploying to Iraq in the New Year and I am sure our entire membership wishes the CO Lt Col **David McCammon** and his team a very successful and safe mission.

I have been very fortunate to have seen the Battalion train in various phases of their training. All I can say is "they are ready and busting to get on with the job".

If I have missed anybody I am sorry but we do all have to thank the lovely women in our lives who let us do what we do in "keeping the spirit alive."

In conclusion, and I say this quite provocatively and if you take PC offence that is your problem, because this is the term I have been using for all of my speaking life. It's how we greet each other on this very special occasion and long may it reign. If you want "Happy Holiday" I suggest you take one, on a one-way ticket because I'm not about to change!

Have a Very Happy, Safe and Merry Christmas.

**Michael von Berg MC OAM
President**



ANZAC Day deadline for Centenary Memorial Walk



An interpretive wall made from local black granite and an open blade fence along the Government House Kintore Avenue boundary are key features of the ANZAC Centenary Memorial Garden Walk design released on Remembrance Day.

Marking Remembrance Day, Premier Jay Weatherill revealed the design alongside Governor Hieu Van Le AO, Minister for Veterans' Affairs Martin Hamilton-Smith, Lord Mayor Martin Haese and Chairman of the Veterans Advisory Council Sir Eric Neal AC CVO.

The Memorial Walk is one of the biggest projects to be funded under the Commonwealth Government's ANZAC Public Fund and is being undertaken by BMD Constructions, following a competitive tender process. The project is expected to be completed by ANZAC Day 2016.

The ANZAC Centenary Memorial Garden Walk has for some years been the preferred commemorative project of the Veterans' Advisory Council and the Government of South Australia. It has had several iterations and a lengthy gestation period but construction commenced on November 23 after site preparations from November 16. The Memorial Walk is best characterised as a "memorial for all, not a few". It seeks to capture Australian society through a century of service. It will not discriminate between conflict or campaign, Unit or Association, gender or culture, nor between services of the Australian Defence Force.

- From the internet

MEMBERSHIP REPORT - November 2015

Although I am the new Membership Officer still wearing 'L' Plates, I have broad experience in community service as a volunteer and coordinator of social services, so I ask for patience in the role.

First off, I ask Members who change their address, phone number/s and/or email address to notify me of these changes so we can update the membership database.

In saying that, we email a monthly flyer telling Members what is on at the club that month. If you do not receive the flyer you can contact me on the details below and I'll make sure details are updated.

A number of the last Infantryman were returned with "Address unknown" on them. Considerable time is being spent trying to track down these members so your cooperation would be appreciated.

All South Australian Members should know by now that we had a devastating fire in the Mid North known as the Pinery Fires last week and that we have a number of Members who live in and around the areas where the fires swept through with terrible result - two dead and many more injured and more than 80 houses and dozens outbuildings destroyed as well as pets, stock, crops and business loses.

As Secretary of 3 RAR and the RARA Membership Officer I notified both committees that we should do welfare checks on four known members from both associations who were living in towns directly Impacted

FROM THE SECRETARY

The Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience is a free event but bookings are essential as places are limited. Bookings for individuals and for groups of up to 30 people can be made at www.spiritofanzac.gov.au. The interactive experience includes more than 200 artefacts normally housed at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

The travelling exhibition is intended to improve understanding of Australia's wartime experience, its impacts and its lessons, to carry forward the Anzac spirit and values. The exhibition will be in Adelaide in March 2016 and Port Augusta in November 2016.

More information, including the tour itinerary, and registration of interest: www.spiritofanzac.gov.au.

As we come to the silly season I urge all to drive safely and soberly.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

- Jim Stopford



Bruce F. Forster - Watchmaker

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38 Gawler Pl, Adelaide
0448 993 007
Oakden
8367 9905
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by the fires. I am happy to say that all four Members and their houses came through, with varying stories. If you know of members who need help in the fire affected areas, please don't hesitate to contact the Association. The RSL is also assisting Members in the fire impacted areas.



I have included renewal forms for those whose membership has lapsed. Please fill in your details and return the form so I can process them process ASAP.

At November 29 we had 400 members on our database. However, 50 are still unfinancial, so a reminder form is enclosed. The Association would love for more Members to take on the baton of helping RARA Members. Please encourage your friends, family members and your mates to join.

Membership forms can be downloaded from www.rarasa.org.au under the Membership heading and complete by following the instructions. Those without access to a computer are welcome to ring the clubrooms and leave a message or contact me.

Carol Van Der Peet: 0415 242 084

carolvanderpeet@gmail.com

**RAR Club: rar01@internode.on.net
(08) 8379 5771.**

Tour Down Under lunch fundraiser

Thursday 14 January 2016 noon to 4pm

**Next Generation Function Centre,
War Memorial Drive, North Adelaide**

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan and to support modern day veterans, Soldier On is planning a cycling tour to the battlefields of Vietnam in November 2016.

To launch the campaign and to raise much needed funds, Soldier On is putting together a luncheon.

Special guests include **Stuart O'Grady, Beccy Cole** and **Anna Meares** with other guests and entertainment to be announced closer to the event. To receive an official invitation please contact Soldier On at sacycling@soldieron.org.au



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Your club, your input, you're welcome



Karyn Chitham, wife of Lt Col Ted Chitham, (2nd from right) with (from left) Lyn Fisher, Bronwyn Stopford, Lynn Graham and Di Fairhead.

Marked improvement in club appearance

As you arrive at the club, you will notice the front garden has been given a face-lift which has been underasken by **Di Fairhead** and **Joy Johnson**. If you have been to look at the back garden beds you will have noticed they are thriving with summer vegetables and the whole area is neat as a pin. It won't be long before we are picking our own tomatoes, egg plant, spring onions, lettuce and a mixture of herbs and spices to enjoy with our Friday night meals. The girls, who meet up at the club each Wednesday afternoon, would be pleased to have others join in and lend a hand.

Over the last couple of months we have replaced all the tired fluro cases and tubes with more modern and cost effective LED downlights. It certainly has given the interior of the clubroom a more modern look and better distribution of light in the evenings. This was not just a matter of changing a set of light fittings as first thought. On inspection of the cabling in the ceiling space all of the light wiring had to be replaced as it was in such a poor condition it may have presented a hazard to the building.

After **Jim Stopford** won the last Joker jackpot prize of around \$450, members wanted it to continue each Friday night. We started afresh at the October Ladies night with a jackpot of \$100. Just as the draw was about to happen **Denise Wheelan**, who had been assisting in the kitchen, called out that she had not yet bought her tickets. After selling Denise her tickets, the draw took place. Yes, you've guessed it, Denise's ticket was drawn giving her the chance to find the matching Joker which she did by counting her favourite number of the cards presented. Denise picked the right card and won the \$100 prize pool. Joker Jackpot will start again on the first Ladies night of 2016.

Recently we moved boxes of **Fred Fairhead's** book "A Duty Done" to storage at Norwood. **Ed Czerwinski, Rod Graham, David White, Ray Vadekis, Tim Karasoulos** **Fred Fairhead** and '**Gus**' are pictured loading up the Club Manager's ute with the last load of books.

- **Greg "Spike" Dwiar, Club Manager**

Guests endeared themselves to members at Friday get-together

Lt Col **Ted Chitham**, a special guest at a recent Friday evening gathering, endeared himself to those who took the opportunity to meet him as he regaled members about his days at school and during his days in the Army in his light-hearted manner. He was accompanied by his wife, Karyn, who was equally interesting to chat with. In an internet article about Lt Col Ted Chitham it states: "His outstanding leadership has been an inspiration to all and has won the respect of both South Vietnamese and Australian forces".



Royal Australian Regiment Association

Homeless Project update

1. You would be aware that the RARA through the DVA ESORT (Round Table) has been trying to find a solution for the homeless issue as described in our report dated the 7 August 2015. The RARA appointed a project officer Pat McIntosh who has been working behind the scenes in trying to verify the numbers highlighted in our and a DVA report on the subject which seems to be based on a very wide spread from 3000 to 300 or somewhere in between and unless there is some form of data collection the extent of the issue may never be accurately known.

2. Discussions have been held between the project committee and DVA and it would appear that through the efforts of the project team, **Pat McIntosh** in particular and **Craig Orme** of DVA there is now a meeting of the minds and a bit of a road map moving forward.

3. RSL Queensland has been approached and their Board has agreed to allocate some \$250K for the employment of a CEO (coordinating officer) and assistant to manage the veteran homeless issue on a national basis. This will involve the liaison with all State Governments, Charitable Organisations which offer a bed, ESOs RSL Life Care and Homes for Heroes. RSL Life Care Queensland has offered at no charge an 1800 24/7 number for any veteran or family member to ring in to notify, or seek help on any other issue which needs to be addressed. This with time will enable a data base to be collected nationally, demographically, geographically and whether a DVA client or not.

4. We are all aware that DVA does not have any legislation provisions to deal with homelessness and that it needs to partner with an organization so that it can case manage the individuals who are mostly homeless because of mental health issues, drug and alcohol dependency and or some other comorbid condition. Many may not be registered with DVA and as soon as the individual has been provided with a bed the wheels should be put in motion for DVA to case manage the individual providing a claim has or is in motion to be processed.

5. The access to beds at a national level, is being addressed with Home for Heroes in NSW (Sydney); RSL Life Care in Queensland has some beds (Brisbane); RSL Life Care in South Australia has a 20 bed unit leased from Uniting Care (Adelaide); The SAS Association is looking for a partner in WA and Pat McIntosh has made some inroads in Victoria (Melbourne).

6. We need to be very clear as to the definition of "homelessness" where there appears to be some ambiguity as to what constitutes a homeless person and from a personal perspective I see no ambiguity if a "homeless person is classified as not having a regular home or place of abode". Any suggestions that an individual is not homeless when "couch surfing" or opting to sleep in the "Hilton Wheels" their own car because they chose to do so is nonsense. They are homeless by definition as per the ABS as a "person that does not have a home" and that is what we must thrive to eliminate for individuals and families who are homeless because of veteran related military service.

7. The project will be driven by RSL Queensland (who puts up the money calls the tune) as the RARA simply does not have the resources, the bed stations around the country and individual case management by DVA. That is a long way from where we were some 12 months ago and a major development in what is a problem and irrespective of the audited or anecdotal numbers "one homeless digger or family is one too many".

Michael von Berg



Our Regional Coordinator in the Gawler/Barossa area George Sibenaler is coordinating assistance for a small number of families in the Freeling area.

The items which present the most challenge at the moment are underwear and personal items such as toiletries because these are things op-shops are unable to provide. If you can help out with a small amount of cash or a few personal items please take them into State Branch. Our thoughts are with everyone in the region affected by the bushfires.

Julia Langrehr, CEO, RSL SA

Paris and beyond? Resilience and determination essential

There is so much going on in the world that it's sometimes difficult to keep up with it all. It's not all bad, although the bad seems to get the most exposure probably because it sells papers and on-line subscriptions, which is commercially understandable. However, in reality unfair to the so many good things which remain unreported.

Yes, we need to know about the bad because that knowledge may alert us to certain dangers and assist us in keeping safe. But it tends to taint our views of the world and the goodness that is all around us.

Looking at it simplistically it's probably a bit of the "half glass full or empty" philosophy. Unless the glass is half full of hope, optimism and realisable dreams and outcomes, as a society we are letting ourselves down and succumbing to the forces which wish to destroy our values, beliefs, culture and that great Australian way of life.

Perhaps I am being naïve but in Romans 12:21 it states "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" which has some merit depending on your interpretation.

Certainly after the recent carnage in Paris you cannot overcome that evil by turning the other cheek. Sovereign nations need to step up and protect their citizens and no better example of that is:

The State is like a well-intentioned genius, cleans the air that they breathe; secures the villages and holdings in which they dwell, and the streets along they walk; protects the fields that they cultivate, secures their homes against fire and flood, and they themselves against illness, poverty, ignorance, superstition and immorality.....Its watchful eye is ubiquitous; its helping hand is ever-ready, and we are invisibly surrounded by an unceasing care."



Perhaps a bit altruistic but considering it was written some 200 years ago by one of my ancestors it still resonates with me and what is happening in the world today. Citizens need that "unceasing care" and protection of that most important element of our society, the family unit.

We can't begin to understand and appreciate the family units which have been terribly affected by the Paris tragedy. Our thoughts and prayers are with them. These affects must be a warning to our leaders that a weakening of resolve or turning the other cheek and risking the safety of our family units will not be tolerated.

Earlier this year our kids and grandkids were on a holiday staying at an apartment only some 5kms from one of the restaurant attacks, which really hits home.

Our police, intelligence, security forces and the ADF have done a magnificent job thus far and must continue if we are going to be kept safe as a nation. We too, however, must be alert and a bit more circumspect in our daily lives. Not to the point where we stop enjoying the things we love to do and our way of life. That morally would be a win for the bad and we are far more resilient and determined than that.

Michael von Berg





Walk raises \$14,500

This year's Trojan's Trek Walk was organised by **Reuben Vanderzalm** from Adelaide Exercise Physiology assisted by some of his staff and a few other volunteers. Thanks Reuben and company.

After parking on the parade ground the crowd waited patiently for the start while listening to some interesting and fun commentary from **Peter Goers**. A number of serious runners were among those gathered, looking for a share of the cash prizes on offer.

The Veterans Rowing Club catered for those with a need for a morning coffee while the MFS through **David Gorham** worked frantically to set up the BBQ which happened to coincide with an emergency response in the city. And a close thing it was too with the first batch of snags rolling off the barby as the quickest groups completed the 5km course.



Winners for the day were: 1st male Lauchie Hennig, 1st female Zhali Clarke, 1st Team Steve, Lindi and Mike and the random \$50 winners were Jeanette Mossop (who handed her winnings back), and Wendy Turner. A number of raffle winners also departed smiling. The day will clear in excess of \$14.5K a great effort. Thanks to all those who gave support to the day.

- Moose Dunlop

Trojan's Trek Queensland and South Australia 2015 report

1. This report covers the Qld and SA treks. The Qld trek was conducted from 9 to 14 August and was the first run in that state. It was conducted as a pilot program to ascertain the viability of future treks. In SA, the male and female treks ran from 20 to 25 September. A number of staff from SA travelled to Qld to assist with the initial trek conduct. The longer term intention is to train and employ staff from Qld to make that operation self-supporting.

2. For the second year, the SA treks included a female version which was conducted concurrently but separately to the male. This year reinforced our earlier experience with the female team, confirming that females are not as flexible in terms of overnight stays, preferring strongly to have access to showers and flushing toilets. This can be managed but does cause issues with staff movement from the male to the female team to present. This aspect will be covered later in this report.

3. The bush in SA was looking good having had about 70 mm of rain in the preceding month. Surface water was present in some creeks. The bush in Qld was dry although normal for that time of year.

The trek established a base at Moolooloo HS Shearers' Quarters which is 32 km NE of Parachiina on the Glass

Gorge Road. The station occupies about 540 square miles of country which varies in type and relief from east to west. The distance to the area of the trek is approximately 520 km from Adelaide. Travelling these distances is time consuming and expensive in fuel, but the advantages in having no mobile telephone, television or radio reception more than offset the disadvantages of travel. A trip of this duration also permits the participants to get to know each other en-route. The feedback from the participants on the location is positive. - Moose

Eden Valley Probus chips in



Probus member Tom Pearce thanks Moose for his address.

A part of community awareness, Moose Dunlop OAM and James Paterson, a veteran of the Iraq war, responded to an invitation to address the club on October 12.

A large group of about 55 listened to Moose who was thanked by Probus member Tom Pearce for his presentation and to James for his personal experience with stress illness and his recovery.

The number of insightful and astute questions which followed indicated a high level of interest in the approach taken by the foundation.



Shearers' Quarters Base Moolooloo

CEREMONIAL

CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES JANUARY TO APRIL 2016

19 February 2016. Hat Dich Commemorative Service



On Friday 19 February 2016 the RAR Association SA will coordinate the conduct of the annual Combined Regiments Hat Dich Commemorative Service at the RAR RSL clubrooms at 11 am.

The service will commemorate the death of 26 Australians and New Zealanders killed on Operation GOODWOOD 3 December 1968 to 19 February 1969 (1 RAR 3; 4 RAR/NZ 6; 9 RAR 14; ASASR 1; 1 Armoured Regt 1 and 3 Cavalry Regiment 1). Light lunch will follow the service.

28 February 2016. 8 RAR Long Hai Commemorative Service



On Sunday 28 February 2016 8 RAR SA will conduct its annual Long Hai Commemorative Service at its memorial on the Pathway of Honour, Adelaide.

The service will commemorate the deaths of eight members of 8 RAR and one member of 1 Field Squadron on 28 February 1970 during Operation HAMMERSLEY in the Long Hai mountains.

1 March 2016. Bien Hoa Commemorative Service



On Tuesday 1 March 2016 the RAR Association SA will coordinate the conduct of a Combined Bien Hoa Commemorative Service for Australian and USA war dead from Operation COBURG 24 January to 1 March 1968.

Operation COBURG was conducted northeast of Saigon during TET 1968 with 2 RAR, 3 RAR and 7 RAR and supporting arms and services.

The service will commemorate the war dead from the operation and will be held at the RAR RSL clubrooms at 11am with a light lunch to follow.

24 April 2016

Kapyong Commemorative Service



On Sunday 24 April 2016 3 RAR SA will conduct its annual Kapyong Day Commemorative Service at the RAR RSL clubrooms at 11.00 am to commemorate the war dead from the Battle of Kapyong 23-25 April 1951. A light lunch in the clubrooms will follow.

25 April 2016.

ANZAC DAY



On Monday 25 April 2016 the RAR Association SA will conduct a short Dawn Service outside its clubrooms.

For the Commemorative March in Adelaide the Association will form up on the eastern side of Pultney Street with head at North Terrace and tail at Rundle Street.

The Association has approved the manufacture of a banner for 8/9 RAR and current and past members of 8/9 RAR are requested to contact the Ceremonial Manager regarding marching.

In 2016 the previously designated NOK Group will be re-titled "Descendants Group".

Adrian Craig, Ceremonial

Army museum seeks volunteers

The Army Museum of SA at Keswick has increased tempo over the last two years.

It now conducts tours, Heritage Walks, lunches and education programs for schoolchildren in years 7-9.

It needs more volunteers to help with the tours and education program and new volunteers to help with scanning and archiving documents, database entries of its collection, support for interactive displays, photography, multimedia, website and newsletter

The museum is open to the public from noon - 4pm every Sunday.

Further information is available from Museum Manager: Major Chris Roe (pictured) on 8305 6021.



It is with much pleasure I can advise that the Hon. Hieu Van Le, Governor of South Australia, has agreed to become the Patron of our SA & NT Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Association Australia Inc. The Governor attended the branch Christmas lunch on December 5.
- Brian Selby, SA President

Combined Regiments Long Tan Service welcomed students



Members of the catafalque party members were Corporal Colbey and Privates Simpson, Erwin, McGuinness, Graham, Clarke and Spires.

Above right: Invited guests and other attendees including Walkerville Primary Schools students.

Below: RSL Manager Commemorations and Merchandise Keith Harrison and DVA representative Sarah Stephens.



Above: MP for Croydon Michael Atkinson after placing his wreath.



Above: RARA SA Vice President Rod Graham (left) with Long Tan veteran Allan Fraser and family and Dave Barclay.

Above right: RAAC Vietnam Veterans Association members Minh, Tinh, Tay, Thu and Nghiep.

Right: Pipe Major Des Ross with Catherine Lambert (right) and The Terrace Singers Ros Durand, Junia Menlo, Margaret Lambert and Rosemary Bilac.



Combined Regiments Long Tan Service welcomed students

On 18 August this year the RAR Association SA and the RAAC Vietnam Veterans SA conducted a combined regiments Long Tan Commemorative Service in the RAR RSL clubrooms at Beatty Street, Linden Park.

Attendance was in the order of 160 with about 60 Year 7 students from Walkerville Primary School. As well as laying a wreath, the students assisted with the distribution of service booklets and giving commemorative red poppies to those who came forward to place a poppy in the two floral wreaths held by the 7 RAR flag orderlies.

Of all the good points of the Service the highlight was the attendance of the well behaved Walkerville Primary School students, who were keenly interested in the ceremony as witnessed by the photos. They have been invited to return in 2016.

The Service was followed by a light lunch with musical entertainment. In line with the practice established last year, the Service was conducted in the clubrooms because of the history of rain in August. Also this year we had flagpoles for the Australian National Flag and the Republic of Vietnam flag made by Greg Dwiar and Russell Campbell so the two flags could be lowered to half-mast before the Service and then raised to the mastheads during the playing of Rouse.

Key players were:

Russell Campbell OAM as MC.
Chaplain Neil Mathieson as the chaplain.

Rod Graham (6 RAR 1st tour of Vietnam) delivered the Welcome Address in the absence of our injured President Michael von Berg MC, OAM.



Fred Fairhead (6 RAR 2nd tour of Vietnam) delivered the Commemorative Address. William Wallace (6 RAR 2nd tour of Vietnam) read the Presidential Unit Citation and read the Roll of Honour.

Lynn Graham read the Scripture again in the absence of Michael von Berg MC, OAM.

Craig Haydock, President RAAR Vietnam Veterans SA recited the Ode.

B Company 7 RAR provided the Catafalque Party and Flag Orderlies.

Catherine Lambert and the Terrace Singers provided choral support, Regimental Pipe Major Des Ross the piper support and Musician Ryan Braun of the Australian Army Band the bugler support.

Rosemary Bilac provided musical entertainment of the era during the lunch.

Of course we had the behind the scenes key players including Club Manager Greg Dwiar and his team setting up the venue and catering and drinks during the lunch.

Overall it was a great day with a fine team effort by all.

Adrian Craig, Ceremonial

Below from left: Bugler musician Ryan Braund, Australian Army Band.

Chaplain Neil Mathieson of Central Region.

William Wallace, RAR SA & 6 RAR 1969-70, who read the Unit Citation and Roll of Honour.

RARA SA Vice President Rodney Graham and MC Russell Campbell. OAM RAR SA.

Lieutenant Colonel Fred Fairhead who gave the Commemorative Address.



FROM THE BATTALIONS

3 RAR SA

3 RAR SA has had a fairly busy last few months with three fundraising sausage sizzles plus other events as shown below.



Commemorative Service for the Battle of Maryang San 6 October 2015

On Tuesday 6 October 2015 we conducted a commemorative service for the battle of Maryang San (2-8 October 1951) during which 3 RAR won the battle honours Maryang San and Kowang San for the Royal Australian Regiment in a multi-phase battalion attack. The service and light lunch were conducted inside the RAR RSL clubrooms due to the forecast high temperatures.

The 3 RAR Intelligence Officer Peter Scott DSO during the Battle attended the service and placed a wreath. The catafalque party and flag orderlies were provided by C Coy 7 RAR with choral support provided by Catherine Lambert and the Terrace Singers, piper support by Des Ross and bugler support by Musician Ryan Braund, Rosemary Bilac sang songs of the era during lunch.



Commemorative Service for LCP Tony Quigley 5 November 2015

On Thursday 5 November 2015 we conducted a commutative service for LCPL Tony Quigley in the Catholic Section of the Centennial Park Cemetery. Tony's brother Garry attended as did his sister Lee Heath. Tony's family were presented with a framed 3 RAR flag by our Vice President Russell Campbell OAM after the service.



Russell presenting the framed flag to Garry and Lee.

Battalion Birthday and Christmas Party 22 November 2015

On Sunday we conducted our annual combined Battalion Birthday and Christmas Party at the RAR RSL clubrooms. About 40 attended including a number of members' children and grandchildren. Father Christmas for the day was Ken Duthie with Margaret Cooper doing most of the work in the present department.



Left: Nancy Litchfield, the birthday girl.

Below: Father Christmas, alias Ken Duthie, with David White and his granddaughters Ella and Alexia.



2016 45th Anniversary of 3 RAR 2nd Tour of Vietnam

In 2016 we will be concentrating on celebrations and commemorations for the Battalion's second tour of Vietnam with a number of major events occurring mid-year near the 45th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Khanh.

Adrian Craig, 3 RAR SA



*Above: Catafalque party.
Right: Rosemary Bilac singing during lunch.
Left: Peter Scott placing a wreath.
Below: Pipe Major Des Ross approaching the cross to place his poppy.*



Quiz night masters menacing

We conducted at quiz night on Saturday 31 October with our usual quiz masters, Nev (son of Social Member Neil Nichols), George and Kyle.



FROM THE BATTALIONS

Back 2 Woodside Reunion 20-23 November 2015



Left: An overview of those attending the service.



Over the extended weekend 20 to 23 November 2015 a reunion for mainly 3 RAR members who had served at Woodside Barracks in the period 1965 to 1981 was held in the Adelaide Hills.

The reunion was centred on the Old Mill Hahndorf with about 330 attending.

Friday November 20

The day was mostly taken up with registration and collection of pre-paid merchandise from early afternoon with a Meet & Greet from around 6pm. These activities were conducted at the Old Mill.

Saturday November 21

Participants enjoyed local trips and going down Memory Lane with a dinner at the Old Mill. The 10/27 RSAR Band provided musical entertainment during the two-course meal.

Sunday November 22

Essentially a free day with the options of company reunions or going to the 3 RAR SA Christmas Party.



Transport Platoon post Vietnam era.

Monday November 23



Russell Campbell giving his welcome address

The venue shifted to Woodside Barracks with buses for the vast majority attending. This was mainly to make it easier to gain access to the Woodside Barracks secure base. A bus tour of the old accommodation lines area was conducted (all demolished and re-planted with trees) was followed by a commemorative service with Laurie Lewis, Patron of the RAR Association SA,

delivering a commemorative address which covered all the three RAR battalions which served at Woodside (4 RAR, 3 RAR and 9 RAR in that order) followed by Steve Larkins delivering a commemorative address which covered the post-Vietnam era.

16 Air/Land Regiment provided outstanding support to the service and the venue for the char grill lunch which followed in the Officer Mess.

Laurie Lewis AM with Steve Larkins and Matthew Stuart.



Catherine Lambert and the Terrace Singers.

7 Platoon C Company 1977 era .



C Company post Vietnam era.

In summary it was a good reunion from which battalion associations can learn from its good points.

Adrian Craig

3 RAR and 9 RAR at Woodside

FROM THE BATTALIONS

4 RAR SA

A commemorative dinner to recognise the Battle of Nui Le was hosted by 4th Battalion Association at the RARA SA headquarters on September 18 at Linden Park.

President **Rod Harris** was the Dining Vice President with Vice President Wayne Langford as Dining President, a role reversal for the night

The dinner was attended by about 40 men and women. The official guests included Royal Australian Regiment Association SA Patron Brigadier **Laurie Lewis AM (Rtd)**, and his wife **Dianne**; RARA SA President **Michael von Berg, MC, OAM**; **Platoon Commander 12 Platoon Graeme Spinkston**, who was at the Battle of Nui Le; 4 RAR Association President **Jim Flower** and his wife **Anne** from Victoria; other guests from Victoria; 3 RAR and RARA SA School Military History Officer **Ken Duthie**, on behalf of Colonel **Peter Scott DSO (Rtd)**.

Graeme Spinkston was guest speaker at the dinner which incorporated the dedication of the 4 RAR display cabinet, the contents of which show the history of the unit, Malaysia-Borneo and Vietnam. Rod advised that if members of the Association had memorabilia they wished to donate it would be gratefully accepted and displayed.

Absent friends were mentioned at the beginning of the evening none more so than WO1 **Noel "Mad Dog" Smith OAM (Rtd)**. Noel's replica medals are displayed in the cabinet. His dedication to 4 RARA SA was known by all. His daughter Kirsty Lanzilli is seen admiring the display.



Colonel **Peter Scott DSO (Rtd)** as the Commanding Officer of 3 RAR during the 2nd Tour of the Republic of South Vietnam in a conjoint operation with 4 RAR/NZ, had D Company 3 RAR attached under command of 4 RAR/NZ during this operation including the Battle for Nui Le, wrote a letter to the 4 RARA SA.

The letter was read aloud. It acknowledged the bravery of the officers and soldiers of 4 RAR/NZ and to remember the war dead and wounded from this battle.

Graeme gave an account of the Battle of Nui Le against 33 North Vietnam Army Regiment, this from a platoon commander perspective (12 Platoon) and of the men under his charge.

4 RAR Association SA committee members can be proud of the manner in which they presented this very successful dinner. Comments to be heard at the end of the night lauded praise on those involved, a big "WELL DONE".

At the beginning of the evening Jim Flower said they have nothing like the RAR Association SA in Victoria to call home to the regiments. They are high words of praise for all of the RAR Association membership and steering committee.

To **Greg Dwiar, Colin Abel** and Cheryl's Kitchen Cuisine catering staff - thank you. You all added to the evening by helping to make it a pleasant dining experience. To the ladies present the glam and glitter made the men

appreciate their effort. The women looked resplendent in their after five dining attire - the men looked pretty sharp as well.

Thank you also to the interstate guests who attended for taking the time to travel and partake in the event. The 4 RARA SA has already booked the RARA SA venue to host their next Battle for Nui Le commemorative dinner in 2016.

If the 2015 dinner is an indicator of success then they will require more seating to accommodate additional attendees next year. Well done, **Rod Harris**, and your committee. You deserve pat on the back.

- Ken Duthie

5 RAR SA



The 5 Battalion lunch at the Alberton Hotel was attended by about 30 Veterans and their partners. MC and organizer Chas Exindaris led the proceedings. It was pleasing to see a couple of new faces. A raffle of a bottle of port donated by Peter Dennis Wines raised \$170 towards the fund for our KIA remembrance in South Australia. The fund now holds \$689.32.

Thanks to all those who have donated in the past. Next year is supposed to be Vietnam Veterans Year so I will see if we can get some funding towards our cause.

Mo (Mos) Hancock 5RAR Rep



Pictorial records are starting to come to light, albeit, 55 and 50 years respectively, after the events.

Can anyone from 3RAR put some names to these faces please? I will make a feature article for the first edition of the Observation Post in 2016. The just-released posters for Remembrance Day 2015 make up for the "oversight" by DVA last year....very appropriate in view of the 50th Anniversary of the Cease Fire and Declaration of the End of the Indonesian Confrontation in August 2016. For the Gunners from 111 Bty RAA, you may recall A Troop was harboured up near Batu Caves when the Indonesian Paras dropped in that night? AND, there is still no official War Memorial site in Canberra for the two post WW2 undeclared wars fought on the Peninsula and Borneo

- Brian Selby, SA President

Thanks to all who attended the 7 RAR's 2015 reunion. Your participation made it so great.

On behalf of the extremely hard working reunion committee - Kerry, Tony, Rob - and myself, I thank you all for attending. After all if nobody comes then we can't have a reunion. And you people really know how to party.

Also many thanks to all those gracious people who have sent emails and posted on Facebook their appreciation of the reunion. It really was great.

So, now that the dust has settled somewhat, a little bit of housekeeping.

First, Festival Photography took shots of every event and the pictures are now up on the web for you to look at - and hopefully order copies. My only comment is that, from my personal point of view, embarrassing photos of some people dancing should be culled in the interest of public decorum.

You can view and purchase the photos at

<http://www.festivalphoto.com.au/2015-events/7rar-anzac-to-adelaide-reunion-2015>

Next, I have a set of videos of the dinner, including the wonderful speech from our Governor and 7 RARA SA patron, Hieu Van Le. For those of you who aren't aware, His Excellency and his wife Lan are both refugees from South Vietnam and he has climbed to the dizzy heights to be Governor of South Australia.

For those who weren't there, it must be said he was truly inspirational and I know many 'hardened vets' cried when His Excellency spoke of his undying gratitude to the Australian troops, without whom he and his wife might not have survived to enjoy this wonderful country. The videos also include an hour of John Schumann, and nearly two hours of Linda McCarthy and Acoustic Juice "jamming".

Because the videos are so large - 13GB - I will need to burn them onto USBs, so there will be a small charge

to cover the cost. If you would like a full copy of all the dinner speeches and entertainment, send me an email to either

nbiggins@internode.on.net or admin@7rarsa.asn.au along with \$20 and I will post a copy to you.

I have also included a copy of a video of the final day parade by C Coy at Keswick Barracks, kindly taken by one of our members - and apologies as I can't find his name - but full congratulations for a great bit of filming.

For those who don't want the video, a full transcript of the Governor's speech is available on line at

<http://www.governor.sa.gov.au/node/2040>

Finally - for now - we are working on the "wash-up" of the reunion, and should know where we stand financially within a couple of days.

Unfortunately, a number of people had to pull out at the last minute and, because of the way it works, most expenses had been handed over to the different venues much earlier. At this moment, we don't know how much we will have - if any - but if we do end up with a surplus we will send partial refunds where we can.

The South Australian Association is also paying for the cost of two granite plinths and two bronze plaques to go into the Commemorative Rose Garden out at the battalion's Horseshoe Lines, to commemorate our fallen. You will be pleased to note we have been able to cover the full cost from Reunion monies. I know you will all appreciate those monies going towards a memorial at the battalion. When they are in place, I will email photos to all members.

Until next time - all the very best. I hope you all had a truly memorable reunion here in South Australia - if you didn't, you know who to blame.

Cheers - Noel Biggins
President, Secretary and Webmaster



Part of Page 1 City North Messenger December 9

JOINT INITIATIVE TO HELP OUR HEROES

Sarah Spencer

A NEW program to provide homeless veterans a place to stay in North Adelaide will prevent struggling ex-servicemen from falling through the cracks, local RSLs say.

RSL-SA last week launched emergency shelter program Homes for Heroes, which will house up to 16 veterans in single rooms at the Australian Lutheran College on Jeffcott St.

Former soldier Ben Challinor - who was in the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery for 11 years - will man-

age the program. Mr Challinor said the aim was to stop veterans from sleeping rough or on somebody's couch so they could get back on their feet and find long-term secure accommodation.

"When I left the army I remember driving out of the gates for the first time leaving 200 mates behind and feeling that weight on my shoulders," Mr Challinor said.

"One of the things I witnessed in my time is that these blokes who are discharged can sometimes get a very generic service and rehabilitation."

Continued Page 8

Former soldier Ben Challinor (right) with Australia Lutheran College Principal Pastor James Winderlich.

Classic Aussie Christmas

Submitted by an RARA SA Member

'Twas the night before Christmas; there wasn't a sound.
Not a possum was stirring; no-one was around.
We'd left on the table some tucker and beer,
Hoping that Santa Claus soon would be here.

We children were snuggled up safe in our beds,
While dreams of pavlova danced 'round in our heads;
And Mum in her nightie, and Dad in his shorts,
Had just settled down to watch TV sports.

When outside the house a mad ruckus arose;
Loud squeaking and banging woke us from our doze.
We ran to the screen door, peeked cautiously out,
Snuck onto the deck, then let out a shout.



Guess what had woken us up from our snooze?
A rusty old ute pulled by eight mighty 'roos.
The cheerful man driving was giggling with glee,
And we both knew at once who this plump bloke must be.

Now, I'm telling the truth. It's all dinki-di,
Those eight kangaroos fairly soared through the sky.
Santa leaned out the window to pull at the reins,
And encouraged the 'roos, by calling their names.

'Now, Kylie! Now, Kirsty! Now, Shazza and Shanel!
On Kipper! On, Skipper! On, Bazza and Wayne!
Park up on that water tank. Grab a quick drink.
I'll scoot down the gum tree. Be back in a wink."

So up to the tank those eight kangaroos flew,
With the ute full of toys and Santa Claus too.
He slid down the gum tree and jumped to the ground,
Then in through the window he sprang with a bound.

He had bright sunburned cheeks and a milky white beard.
A jolly old joker was how he appeared.
He wore red stubby shorts and old thongs on his feet
And a hat of deep crimson as shade from the heat.

His eyes - bright as opals - Oh! How they twinkled!
And, like a goanna, his skin was quite wrinkled.
His shirt was stretched over a round bulging belly
Which shook when he moved, like a plate full of jelly.

A fat stack of prezzies he flung from his back.
He looked like a swaggie unfastening his pack.
He spoke not a word, but bent down on one knee,
To position our goodies beneath the yule tree.

Surfboard and footy-ball shapes for us two.
And for Dad, tongs to use on the new barbecue.
A mysterious package he left for our Mum,
Then he turned and he winked and he held up his thumb;

He strolled out on deck and his 'roos came on cue,
Flung his sack in the back and prepared to shoot through.
He bellowed out loud as they swooped past the gates
"Merry Christmas to all, and good onya, Mates."

FROM THE BATTALIONS

9 RAR

The major activity for 9 RAR SA in the past months has been attending the 9 RAR National Reunion in Melbourne from Friday 13 Nov to Sunday 15 Nov 2015.

The three-day reunion included a Meet & Greet at the National Gallery of Victoria on the Friday evening with an address by our patron the Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove who was a rifle platoon commander in 9 RAR in Vietnam; the Reunion Dinner in the Members Dining Room at the MCG on the Saturday evening with Normie Rowe providing musical entertainment (he was an APC driver and crew commander in support of 9 RAR during its tour) and the Remembrance Service at the Shrine of Remembrance on the Sunday morning followed by a BBQ.

In addition there were tours of the National Sports Museum, the Seymour Commemorative Walk and the Vietnam Veterans Museum on Phillip Island.

Attendance was in the order of 220.

While in Melbourne a number of 3 Platoon members conducted a short commemorative service at the Fawcner Crematorium and Cemetery for one of their war dead on the Saturday morning. Private Brian Rennie came to 3 Platoon in June 1969 after service in 1 RAR during Operation Goodwood, 4 RAR/NZ and the 2nd D&E Platoon of 1 ATF.

He was fatally wounded north of Xuyen Moc on the morning of 7 Sep 1969 almost immediately being appointed the Section 2IC of 8 Section.

Those attending the service are pictured below (from left) Geoff Boettcher, who replaced Brian as the Section 2IC; Brian's youngest brother Gerry and his wife Trish; Geoff White, one of Brian's mates; and Adrian Craig, the original platoon commander 3 Platoon.

It was a very moving service with Gerry standing in exactly the same place at the side of the grave stone as he did as a 7-year-old 46 years ago.

We conducted our AGM at the RAR clubrooms on Thursday December 3.

- Adrian Craig



They made headlines

Members of the Royal Australian Regiment Association - **Aaron Marks, Jim Fisher and Peter Scott** - were among ex-servicemen who featured in newspaper articles highlighting ANZAC Day and the Poppy Appeal.

A photograph by Roger Wyman of Aaron and his son, Kody 3, was chosen for the front page of the November 11 issue of the Eastern Courier Messenger.

An article by journalist Daniela Abbracciavento with another photo of the father and son was published on page 8.

The article (in part) read: "Mr Marks enlisted in 2005 and served in peace-keeping operations in East Timor and Tonga in 2006 before being deployed to Afghanistan four years later. He served until 2012 when he moved from Brisbane to Adelaide.

He will take a moment on Remembrance Day to salute fallen mates.

"In January Mr Marks, 33, became the St Morris RSL president and is the youngest Sub-Branch president in SA."



Eastern Courier Messenger. Photo: Roger Wyman

Spike our fishing champ

The War Fishing Group was started some 20 years ago from a group of veterans who saw a need for other veterans to get involved with one of their favourite pastimes, which of course was good for their well being and sanity.

The group has been involved with many fishing charters around the state as well as 3 or 4 day trips to places like Whyalla, Coffin Bay, Marion Bay, Point Turton, Ardrossan, with day trips to nearby land and jetty areas.

At present we have 6 veterans with boats which offer other veterans in the group the opportunity to fish the local waters of Gulf St Vincent. If any of our younger veterans would be interested in participating in a social days fishing or a charter with like minded people, the group meets at TPI House at Richmond on the last Friday of each month or by contacting the Secretary **Kevin Stone** or 8284 3974.



Greg Dwiar receives the Rod Langman from Rod Langman Jnr. With them are Rob Klose from MP Nick Champion's office.

Ode reading ranks highly



Reset from The Advertiser of 11 November 2015 because of poor reproduction. Tiser photo

Peter Scott received many accolades in his more than 35 years serving his country. Among them is the distinguished Service Order he received for his role as commanding officer with the 3rd Battalion in the Royal Australian Regiment during the Vietnam War.

Mr Scott (pictured) 86, says being asked to read the Ode of Remembrance at Centennial Park today is one of his greatest honours.

"Standing next to Derrick Gardens is always very emotional, particularly as one of my officers killed in Vietnam is buried here, Mr Scott of Glenside says. "I have been attending Remembrance Day service at Centennial Park for about 10 years now, and a couple of my soldiers are heavily involved with it. So I am always very proud seeing them involved."



Jim Fisher's photo appeared in *The Advertiser* of November 6 with South Australian batsman **Callum Ferguson** to help publicise Poppy Day. In the story Richard Earle wrote (in part):

"The Redbacks have partnered with the Returned Services League in the lead-up to Remembrance Day on November 11.

Members and fans are invited to purchase a poppy at Adelaide Oval during the match this week when the Redbacks take on the Warriors. "RSL-SA CEO Julia Langrehr thanked SACA and Redbacks for joining forces to promote the 2015 Red Poppy Appeal. The build-up to Remembrance Day is important as we try to raise awareness and educate the community about the significance of the day and the story of the poppy.

"To partner with the Redbacks for four days at Adelaide Oval is a wonderful opportunity and we thank them for their generosity".

Photo: Naomi Jellicoe

Presentations added to spirit of goodwill at Christmas drinks



Always welcome guests at RARA SA functions are RAAC Vietnam Veterans Association members. At the event are Tam Nguyen (formerly of Defence DSTO), and businessmen Mr Thu Do, Mr Tay Nguyen and Mr Minh Nguyen.

Schools Military History Officer **Ken Duthie** presented memorabilia to **Kirsty Lanzilli** which had part of the life of her father, the late **Noel "Mad Dog" Smith**. Ken said Noel had donated the items to him for his school history collection but he felt they should be returned to his family.

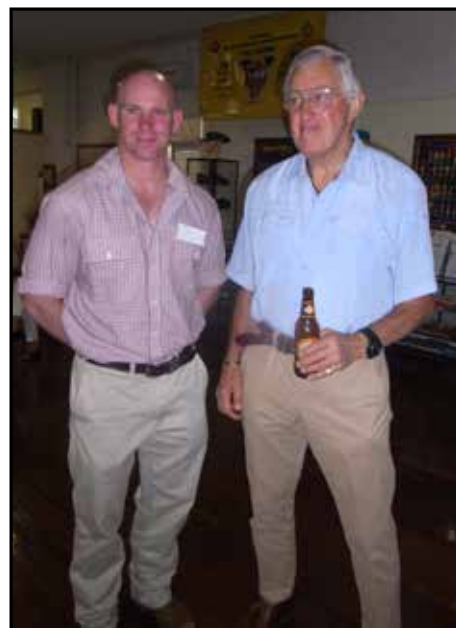
They included his bright red Thai-made flight suit which (as did many others did) he wore for comfort, while he was part of the Australian Army team in Vietnam.

It was given to him by the Americans and bears his warrant rank and his name "Mad Dog", his nickname by which the American also called him

Kirsty also received the miniature set of 13 medals including his OAM and medals he received for service in Malaysia, Borneo and Vietnam. He also awarded two Vietnam awards, one from the Republic of South Vietnam Training Team and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star.

Ken gave her a book "The Team" which lists the names of all those personnel who served with the Training Team in Vietnam.

Ken said: "Kirsty can now wear the miniature medals, rather than the heavier full size set, on ANZAC and Remembrance Days. A replica set is in 4 RAR's display cabinet in the clubrooms.



Major Chris Gilmour (left) and Chris Pepper chat together

Major Chris Gilmour CO of Company 7 RAR was recently recognised as top Rifle Company in the Battalions' annual awards and **Chris Pepper** ex 4 RAR South Vietnam have something in common where both have been Pioneer Platoon Commanders. Obviously in this shot discussing the detailed explosives calculus of blowing up "things" and, to be sure, to be sure, doubling the requirement. Many of us have fond memories of Pioneers doing amazing things and delighted to see the skills are being reintroduced and the Pioneer Platoon back on the order of battle. - MvB

Below from left: Jim O'Halloran, who arrived by motorcycle, Trojan's Trek Director Moose Dunlop, MP for Croydon Leesa Vlahos and RARA SA President Michael von Berg.



Presentations added to spirit of goodwill at Christmas drinks



Judy Lewis, daughter of Laurie and Di Lewis, with MP for Croydon Leesa Vlahos, Jim O'Halloran and Di Lewis.



Rosie Blood and Helen Pepper, front, with RARA SA Patron Laurie Lewis, Kirsty Lanzilli, daughter of the late Noel "Mad Dog" Smith, and Ron Blood.



Ann Dennis writes out tickets for John Kendall for the Christmas raffle. The raffle was drawn on December 18 after Infantryman had gone to press. Waiting outside to take him home was his pride and joy - a gleaming deep blue Mercedes. Although the trucking company he works for is within walking distance from his home he enjoys driving it to and from work. Christmas presents for himself? Star Wars characters!



Moose Dunlop displays the cheque for \$6000 raised by 3 RAR during Back2Woodside in November. With him are 3 RAR Co-Secretary Carol Van Den Peet, Leanne Pitman, Co-Secretary Jeff Barrett, Steve Larkin and 3 RAR Vice President Russell Campbell.

Trojan effort achieves healthy donation for treks

The Christmas drinks on December 3 were rounded out with the donation of \$6000 to Trojan's Trek Director **Moose Dunlop**, who said, when expressing his appreciation for the donation, that part of the money would go towards airfares for interstate people to travel to SA to train for treks.

Speaking on behalf of the 3 RAR volunteers who organised and ran the Back2Woodside reunion in November, **Steve Larkin** said the money was raised from raffles, an auction and proceeds from the various functions over the three days. Around 330 registrations were received for the program which included a Meet and Greet on the Friday and a dinner at the Old Mill at Hahndorf the next day with the 10/27 Regimental Band playing; and the Commemorative Service at Woodside followed by a barbecue lunch in the Officers/Sergeants Mess 16 Air Land Defence Regiment.



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 Jim Stopford 0400 191 801
jbstop@bigpond.com

Treasurer Mike Bevan 0416 106 578

Webmaster mikeb3@netspace.net.au

Membership Carol Van Der Peet 0415 242 084
3RARSA@gmail.com

Appointed Committee Positions

Manager - Club Greg Dwair 0412 644 749
gregdwair@gmail.com

Manager - Ceremonial Adrian Craig 8263 4784
as.craig9rar@bigpond.com

Welfare Officer Vacant

Trojan's Trek

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

Schools Military History Officer Ken Duthie 0418 806 172

Voluntary Positions

Manager - Bar Neil Nicholls 0488 050 810
neilnicholls1946@gmail.com

Editor - Infantryman Penelope Forster 8369 9905
penelopeforster01@gmail.com

Battalion Representatives

1 RAR John Genovese genovese@bigpond.net.au 8265 0524

2 RAR Malcolm Allen mal@aladdco.com.au 0451 374 133

2/4 RAR Kim Porter yrtnafni51@gmail.com 0417 468186

3 RAR Robert Whelan wheelsdenise@internode.on.net 8387 9979

4 RAR Rod Harris sirrah@lm.net.au 0448 726 088

5 RAR Mos Hancock moswhan@bigpond.net.au 8556 2732

5/7 RAR Chris Shannon thinktank2002@hotmail.com 0416797 250

6 RAR Vacant

7 RAR Robert Whinnen rlwhinnen@bigpon.com.au 0413 198 558

8 RAR Ted Forward adrianne.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.rarasa.org.au
Email: rar01@internode.on.net

FRIDAY NIGHTS JAN - JUNE 2016			
		MEAL	BAR
JANUARY	8	Light Meal	Adrian C
	15	Ladies night, 3 Course Menu	Bob W
	22	Light Meal	Spike
	29	Chef's Choice, 2 Course Menu	Kara
FEBRUARY	1	Light Meal	Neil
	8	Ladies night, 3 Course Menu	Bob W
	15	Light Meal	Wheels
	22	Light Meal	Adrian C
	29	Chef's Choice, 2 Course Menu	Spike
MARCH	5	Light Meal	Kara
	12	Ladies night, 3 Course Menu	Bob W
	19	Light meal	Neil
	26	Chef's Choice, 2 Course Menu	Wheels
APRIL	1	Light Meal	Adrian C
	8	Ladies night, 3 Course Menu	Bob W
	15	Light meal	Spike
	22	Light meal	Kara
	29	Chef's Choice, 2 Course Menu	Neil N
MAY	7	Light Meal	Wheels
	14	Ladies night, 3 Course Menu	Bob W
	21	Light Meal	Adrian C
	28	Chef's Choice, 2 Course Menu	Spike
JUNE	3	Light Meal	Kara
	10	Ladies night, 3 Course Menu	Bob W
	17	Light Meal	Neil N
	24	Chef's Choice, 2 Course Menu	Wheels

Information for Infantryman articles and photos

All articles and photos for *Infantryman* are to be emailed to President Michael von Berg, who will vet them before submitting them to me for preparing the layouts.

Emails, both articles and photos, must show in the subject line with the word "Infantryman" and another word or two - not "article" only.

Numbers only on emailed photos make it very difficult to sort out which articles they should be matched with. When more than one photo is submitted for the same article, type: Infantryman parade 1, Infantryman parade 2, etc.

Articles are to be submitted in Word in 10pt Arial. Photos should be emailed as jpgs **separately** - **not included within the text**.

Landline phone numbers must be written XXXX XXXX (four numbers, a gap, and four numbers). Mobiles: XXXX XXX XXX (four numbers, a gap, and three numbers and a gap, three numbers) as seen on TV, advertising hoardings and in newspapers and magazines.

Please include your phone number on emails as a second source of communication should verification be needed about a story or photo. All photos must have captions with first names and surnames

The next issue of *Infantryman* will be the April edition. The deadline for submission of articles and photos: Tuesday March 1.

Thanks to all those who contributed in any way to the preparation of this issue and especially to Lynn Graham, Adrian Craig and my very patient husband Bruce
- Penelope Forster