



# INFANTRYMAN

The Journal of the RAR Association SA  
*Keeping the Spirit Alive*

August 2016



*RARA SA President Michael von Berg MC OAM honours a Vietnamese contingent on ANZAC Day*

## ANZAC DAY: Salute to past courage and struggle

Watching our Vietnamese allies march by on ANZAC Day with their heads held high in the peaceful environment of Adelaide was a far cry from my participation marching with many Vietnamese in the Vietnamese National Day march in Saigon on the 1 November 1966.

Lt. **Denis Rainer** MC and I had been tasked by the CO to lead an Australian contingent provided by 5 RAR to participate in what was a politically important parade to show the Vietnamese people that the Vietnamese and the allies were in control?

Well, that didn't work very well, because what we all thought was going to be a "junket and jolly" was rained on by mortars to our front, with some 3 KIA, including an American officer and five wounded. But as a part of this ridiculous propaganda façade we had to continue the march and if it wasn't so serious it would have been funny.

In fact a mutiny would have been hilarious and probably supported! That famous post war cliché "I love the smell of napalm in the morning" and the smell of cordite suddenly had a touch of reality to it. Watching some 50 Australian soldiers all marching with their sphincters twitching, with the two officers leading in a state of super sphincter overdrive twitch, eyes looking like a mad cat and ready to break all records to dive and fight for whatever cover may be available, is not the most desirable of parade situations or etiquette. But finish we did, without further incident but through it all we had developed an enormous thirst.



*COMMITTEE UNCHANGED: All members were returned in office at the RARA SA's AGM on July 10 including (from left) Secretary Jim Stopford, Vice President Rod Graham, President Michael von Berg and Minute Secretary Lynn Graham. More page 2.*

Copious quantities of American and local beer was consumed that night, recounting what was a bizarre and surreal situation before our return to Nui Dat the next day.

**Watching how, little in stature but big in heart, Vietnamese allies marched past us on ANZAC Day brought back that memory with fondness. The Australians, because of politics, may have lost the war but, watching the Vietnamese march by, we have actually won in accepting and including these honest and hardworking individuals and their families into the tapestry of our society to share in our nation's wealth and values. Long may they march and we all stand in awe and salute them for their past courage and struggles.**

- Michael von Berg MC OAM

## AGM 2016

# No committee changes but challenge for future forecast

All the hard-working, energetic and enthusiastic committee members were returned to office at the RARA's AGM on July 10.

The gathering turned into a real round-table discussion on several issues including not increasing membership fees. Membership now stands at 400. See Membership Report on page 5

In his report, President Michael von Berg issued the challenge that "we must evolve and change if we are going to survive in our present form."

He said: Sadly our membership base is diminishing where either individuals are off doing other things or just no longer interested. That's sad considering how far we have all come over the last 10 years. Unless our membership grows or stays steady we need to start planning the next step because we won't be able to run this club and all that it offers.

It's nearly always down to the same people doing all the work and they can't keep doing it forever. Unless we have succession and start towards that plan it's going to be a meagre membership in the next five years.

Although the membership is an issue it's not life-threatening, but the most important aspect is that we are on a limited tenure on our clubrooms. Your Vice President Rod Graham has been looking at other opportunities. Nothing will happen in the short term but we must start looking for another home if that is what the membership and the committee wants us to pursue.

These problems are not isolated to the RARA. They are also being experienced by other RARA interstate and in the Battalion Associations as well. There is need for generational change but we must be mindful that the younger generation of veterans operates in a different way, where there may be only virtual Battalion Associations in the future with some officer bearers at IT specialists and nearly all contact conducted on-line. If that is the way the next generation decides in keeping the spirit alive it's something we need to look at.

This will be discussed and dissected at length at our annual RARA Council meeting in October this year.

Our Association is extremely well regarded and that is evident by the committees and councils on which some of us sit where through our input and influence we try to make a difference for the better. The Veteran Consultative Forum, the VAC, the ESORT, the PMAC, ADSO, Recovery of the MIA from the Korea Committee in Defence, the RARA Council and Corps Discussions, the RSL Sub-branch, the Ward 17 issue and so many other which pop up from time to time and I am extremely grateful to everyone who contributes to these many forums.

I thank all who make enormous contributions. In no particular order: Rod, Lynn, Carol, Spike, Colin, Mike, Adrian, Tim, Neil, Bob, Lyn (2), David, Ed, Penelope and Bruce and many who are roped in from time to time to lend a hand. We could not operate without you. The members are extremely grateful for what you do.



HERE THEY ARE: RARA SA Patron Laurie Lewis (centre) with (from left) Ceremonial Officer Adrian Craig, Secretary Jim Stopford, Club Manager Greg Dwiar, Treasurer Mike Bevan, President Michael von Berg OM ingM, Vice President Rodney Graham, Secretary Lynn Graham and Membership Officer Carol Van Der Peet. Photos: Bruce Forster.



Carol Van Der Peet, Lynn Graham, Joy Johnson, Ann Dennis and Penelope Forster enjoying lunch. Below: Overview of meeting.



The life blood of the RARA is the Battalion Associations I thank them for their support and what a wonderful ANZAC Day and gathering for all afterwards. I also thank Fred Fairhead for his continuing work in updating A Duty Done, which has been a resounding success,

Ken Duthie who is now back in fighting mode with his school program which will now be helped with the purchase of a van; Laurie for his marvellous work and fine counsel and the Minister Martin Hamilton-Smith and Rod Manton in particular who has done an outstanding job in difficult circumstances and a great friend of the association.

Let us all move forward but reflect on my opening words that we must evolve and change if we are going to survive in our present form. It's not panic; it's just some realistic management planning for the future. Thank you once again for your hard work, your support and, most importantly, your friendship in the spirit of what we have all shared in various capacities within this much admired and respected Regiment.



# FROM THE COMMAND POST

It wasn't all that difficult to pick a subject for this edition in what is happening in the political landscape globally, but in particular the UK, the USA and our own domestic situation, where at the time of going to print the final result is still not known but that is not the thrust of this editions missive.

What all politicians of all parties must realise is that the total domination of the national conversation by the major parties here and in the other two allied markets has changed and the dynamics that will drive the conversation into the future will be at the personal level of the electorate to everyday people with everyday problems.

Although some parts of the election have resonated with the major party supporters, the overall affect has been zilch, which is evidenced by a very close result where people, it would appear, have stopped listening, not because they aren't interested, but in many cases they don't believe or at worst, don't understand and that is bad from a democratic point of view where an individual is unable to make a considered decision based on distrust and ambiguity which is selling the electorate short. In other words "don't worry about what I said last time and didn't honour or don't worry if you don't understand, we know best". Oh really?

But that is the way it seems to be coming across and some in the electorate are not happy and have voted accordingly.

Is this a one off or is this something that will drive the political landscape in the future? It could be because there are a lot of people out there who feel disaffected and ignored and want to be heard and the recent example of that, whether you agree with it or not, is the Brexit where we have Great Britain's decision to leave the European Union.

This was a decision by the people who wanted to be heard, and they have made a major decision on the future shape of the UK and Europe. Not for one moment suggesting that the political management of Australia should be managed by way of referendums but at local level the question needs to be asked, who is listening to the everyday worries and concerns of everyday people? It should be the local member but are they listening?

Or if they are, and there are many great local members from all sides of politics, are those concerns being aired in the party room or by way of writing to the responsible Minister, or more to the point is the leadership of the party room and or the responsible Minister listening?

Sadly in many cases not, because as a part of ADSO and in our own right as the RARA we have advocated for certain issues which have fallen on deaf ears and that is unacceptable in particular when it affects veterans of all conflicts and their families.

Due to distrust and disaffection millions of voters have preferred other options and this shift in the shape of the political landscape in Australia will drive the future political agenda where people do matter, are not stupid and do have a voice, which will be increased both in volume and tone through the digital media space which

is available to all.

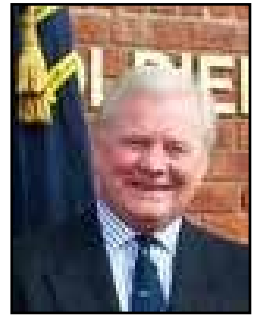
The Senate is starting to look like the Italian Parliament but the people have spoken and to quote a Howardism, "the people never get it wrong" and they haven't, based on the current electorate mood. There are too many politicians who live in the "Canberra bubble" more interested in self-preservation and advancement, playing the Canberra games, looking for that invariable non important news grab, a junket to some part of the world, rather than perhaps getting down and dirty in the electorate working with small focus groups, individuals or centres of influence to hear their everyday issues and what really concerns them and their families. Our newly re-elected member for Canning in WA, Andrew Hastie (ex SASR) seems to have been doing just that where he identified, by talking to people in his electorate, what really concerned them and the messages coming out of Canberra and election HQ was too esoteric and ambiguous to be easily understood and inevitably misconstrued and I am sure that Labor supporters irrespective of the differences in messaging in many cases were also confused and therein lies the problem.

The issues that families are concerned about is child care, health, education, security, take home pay and making ends meet. Anything else is too big for their pay scale to either understand or influence and my view is that if you can get the aforementioned reasonably right it's easier to sell some tough fiscal budgetary measures providing that the sell is positive and the language is easily understood, not the condescending, patronizing and confusing explanations coming out of Canberra.

There is a crucial issue that politicians of all persuasions seem to either forget or ignore; they all work for us, the people, and they are answerable to us, the people, and they all need to work much harder to listen to the people and prosecute their case for assistance or change because if they don't in three years, there will be more disaffection at the ballot box, and more carnage through fragmentation and segmentation of political parties and ideologies and the introduction of other entries on to the political landscape which really will look like the Italian Parliament.

It's not all bad and if the results go the way that the experts are predicting at least we will still have the same Minister of Veterans Affairs where having had five in as many years its hardly an advertisement for stability. The other positive is thankfully our election is over and now that the people have spoken it's up to whoever is going to lead the country, we must support them and the political process as best as we can and we are lucky that we live in a democratic country where we don't have to decide between Hillary or the Don. Now that is going to be very interesting to watch.

Michael von Berg MC OAM



# Your club, your input, you're welcome

## Club Manager's report

There have been a couple of improvements inside the clubrooms since our last report, the major one being the replacement of the tired old curtains with light blocking roller blinds to all the interior windows and doors. We have replaced the old fluoro tubes and fittings with cost effective LED downlights throughout, and improved the security lighting for the carpark. Regimental banners have been more evenly spaced around the club to accommodate the wall heaters, which have made the inside more comfortable during the colder months.

There have been Battalion Commemoration services and a Regimental Dining-in night held at the RAR which are covered in articles in this issue, along with RAR exercise group each Tuesday morning, Ed Czerwinski's Judo classes and Leticia's Pilates and Yoga group.



Michael Lawrence with a slab of his bacon and (right) apprentice Luke Moody displays some of their awards

## Meating needs for club meals when only the award-winning will do

Friday nights at the clubrooms for good fellowship and some refreshments has become an integral part of activities at Linden Park. Food ranges from snacks to three-course meals. Club Manager Greg Dwiar keeps members up to date with the menu for each weeks via colourful emails.

Many meals are prepared by Colin Abel, who has become known as "chef de cuisine" with a variety of tasty soups, main courses with choices, and desserts, many supplied by Michelle.

Whether it's a member or two on the food roster or Colin, many have been the compliments about the food including the meats. So where does the meat come from?

Vice President Rod Graham says Leabrook Quality Meats.

Leabrook Quality Meats is owned by Michael Lawrence who is "thrilled to be named SA's best full rasher and shortcut bacon producer".

Michael achieved a clean-sweep in the State categories at the 2016 Australia Pork-Mark Bacon Awards earlier this year. His bacon was described by the judges as having the best texture, a good lean to fat ratio, minimal to no shrinkage and a smooth well-rounded flavour with just the right amount of smokiness.

The shop is at 9/457 Glynburn Road so when you can take the opportunity to drop in and say "Hi" to Michael and his apprentice Luke, who has been so helpful - he really could be in public relations - in providing this information and photos. Check their interesting website too or call them on 8331 3514.



A wealth of tradies' skills hit the clubrooms for the working bee on July 11. Now the gang is sitting back waiting for compliments. Nearly every inch inside and outside the building was scrubbed, washed, mended, dusted, sorted, thrown out or replaced more efficiently. Vice President Rod Graham is seen at left, holding some lunch supplies, for Club Manager Greg "Spike" Dwiar, Ruth Devine, Chris Shannon, Jim Karasoulos, Kevin Stone, Ian McDougall, Robert Whinnen and 3 RAR Vice President Russell Campbell.



Clock-wise: Hedge-trimmer Chris Shannon; scourer Spike Dwiar; magazine stands cleaner Ian McDougall; window cleaner Robert Whinnen with his dog Bryan; vacuum cleaner Jim Karasoulos, and window cleaner Ruth Devine in action.



## Assistant to Editor with internet skills needed

Infantryman Editor Penelope Forster would like to hear from someone interested in tracking down photos and background information to add to material provided for "Infantryman".

Phone: 8367 9905 or  
0419 856 946. Thank you



# Your club, your input, you're welcome

## Membership Report July 2016

Hello Members,

I am writing to you as your Membership Officer and would like all of you, as Members, to help with the important role we play in looking after our fellow RAR members, their families, friends and supporters.

As such I put to you that you endeavour to "Recruit" at least one friend to the Club. As we all know, most of you still have contact with those who you served with, whatever era that may have been.

I even said to a Member after the AGM on July 10 that I would buy the Recruiter a drink when they came to the club with the new Member!

Even though I have undertaken over this last year to contact members via email, phone or the newsletters, we still have a number from the previous financial year of 2015 who have failed to renew.

As such, those on this list will receive a final reminder in this Newsletter, as the cost of producing a notice and the postage can be quite a burden. Those on this list will not be deleted, but moved to an inactive list, in case they decide to come back.

As Members of the RAR you are missing a number of great activities, meals, services and comradeship which the club and Members provide, all done by a dedicated volunteer group which runs these activities. So please support your club and those who work tirelessly to keep you up to date with what's on.

Now, we also have a number of Members who are due to renew their membership this 2016 financial year, so a gentle reminder will be coming to you with this Newsletter.

If you don't want to wait to pay via a cheque, etc., and if you do have the ability to download the Renewal Form from the Website, the details are below. Likewise I may be giving you a phone call or personal email in the near future to find out if I can help in any way, or to just have a chat.

Website details are: [www.rarasa.org.au](http://www.rarasa.org.au) and look under the Membership heading for details on how to, not only renew, but 'Recruit' a mate.

Membership is still only \$15 a year, with a sliding rate of getting cheaper the more years you pay. Now that's a bargain.

### Catherine May, Physiotherapist



9 Crossley Street, Erindale  
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If you are not computer savvy, I can help you with a number of different ways to renew or join, so please don't hesitate to contact me and asking for help.

I also ask you to check your emails, as we still have a number which don't get delivered. So if you have an email address and don't get Greg 'Spike' Dwiars monthly emails and other information, then you need to notify us of your details and that includes changes for addresses, phone numbers or other details.

Carol Van Der Peet, Membership Officer

M: 0415 242 084

E: [RAR01@internode.on.net](mailto:RAR01@internode.on.net)



Membership Officer Carol Van Den Peet and her partner Jeff Barrett were among those who attended the Regimental Dinner on June 25. Since joining the Association, Carol and Jeff have worked enthusiastically to support the RARA SA and the 3 RAR Association. They have jointly taken on the role as the 3 RAR Secretary, with Jeff producing In Touch. They are also keenly involved with the RSL and other service associations.

## War Veterans Fishing Group report

Fishing among our group has been fairly quiet over the last couple of months due to the cold and unpredictable weather conditions. In May we planned a trip to Wallaroo, only to be faced with the worst storms in the area for 70 years, not putting a boat in the water over the four days. We put aside our fishing gear in June and enjoyed a night at the Greyhounds, then had to cancel a trip to Point Turton because of weather, hopefully our four-day trip to Port Victoria this month will go ahead. In August we have a day outing from West Beach and another from North Haven. September is our Kingfish trip to Port Augusta, in October we meet at Garden Island boardwalk for a day with our grandchildren, and participate in Veterans' Health week. We have a continuous diary of events catering for all anglers with younger veterans starting to join in with us older blokes.

Our aim is fishing as a healthy leisure and pleasure and we support Soldier On. More information: Recruiting officer Kevin Stone 8284 3974



## Third article on the Boer War by Trevor Jones

### Update on the Memorial's Progress

**S**culpture 1 has been completed and is temporarily housed in the War Memorial Museum. By the time this edition of Infantryman is published Sculpture 2 should also be completed and preliminary design model for Sculpture 3, also completed and work well begun. The design specification for Sculpture 4 is completed and sculpture design is in progress.

Detailed site plans have been lodged with the National Capital Authority. Again by the time Infantryman is published should be approved.

The final submission includes the positioning and stage-lighting of the four larger than life bronze statues of troopers accurately representing the character of Australian mounts, uniforms and equipment of the day, plus a paved forecourt with illuminated flagpole, a low wall bearing information about Australia's role in the Boer War, and landscaping of the surrounding area in the style of a South African Veldt.

Despite a previous failed attempt, the quest was again taken up in 1999, and took six years to get a site allocated on Anzac Parade. "What a triumph it is to be so close now, to its dedication on 31 May 2017", states fund committee member, Colonel John Haynes OAM.

### What caused the Great Anglo - Boer War, as it is often referred to?

Seldom do we reflect on why a conflicts start. Some are obvious, like a direct invasion for expansionist power or resources or as in WWI, the changing political alliances. As countries became more geographically definitive in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, it is often said of Europe that there was no real peace, but they were simply at times, not at war.

The Dutch first settled in southern Africa to farm and resupply the ships of the Dutch East India Company, particularly with vegetables, on their journey to Dutch interests in the East Indies. They were followed by many Germans and even a few French, all seeking free land and they quickly adopted the Boer culture. Boer simply translates as 'farmer.' The Afrikaners had beaten the local indigenous tribes into submission and had become a troublesome people detesting any form of Government. In a strange twist in fate, the new French Republic had become the ruler of Holland, whose royalty fled and asked the British to protect Dutch colonial interests until they could return to rule Holland. In 1806 a British expeditionary force captured Cape Colony to keep it out of the hands of the French and in 1814 it was formally ceded to Britain.

When a leading Boer farmer and activist Frederick Bezuidenhout resisted arrest for the maltreatment of his black servants and fired upon an arresting party, which mainly included tribal Hottentots, who had been given free pass by the British over their own land, the arresting party fired back and Bezuidenhout was killed. This was

unforgivable to the Boers: a black man killing a white man over what they considered an insignificant servant issue and nothing to do with the law or justice.

This was to lead to a hundred or more years of significant racial, political and at times violent disputes between the



Boers and the British rule of law. The Boers began to move away from the British and establish their own little republics, but were incredibly quarrelsome amongst themselves: unable to establish leaders, what areas to migrate to, what to call their republics, and to what degree to follow their Calvinism religion. But whatever, these normally deeply religious people believed in the righteousness of their cause and that

God was on their side. Contrary to this, the 'trekker and trekker republics' as they became known usually had elected officials and often all the people were involved in the decision making process: easily achieved as most had relatively small numbers of people. However, most of these republic settlements were dismantled and annexed by the British.

In later years the trekkers had trekked north and east and far enough away from the British to establish the Orange Free State and Transvaal, and the Bloemfontein Anglo – Boer agreement gave them independence from the British. The Orange Free State was well governed, but Transvaal eventually fell into a chaotic state with poor governance. In 1877 the British annexed Transvaal, much to the disgust of its people, who hated their own government, but distrusted and hated the British even more.

The First Anglo – Boer War were the Transvaalers' rejecting the British annexation. In late 1880 Transvaal had a widely spread population of 50,000 people mainly armed with hunting guns and after a series of defiant protests and public disorder like not paying taxes, which many also refused to pay before annexation, some serious armed skirmishes took place where the British military and political class had underestimated their determination. In August 1881 a conditional agreement was made and Transvaal was allowed to govern itself again.

### Then why the Second Anglo – Boer war of 1899 -1902?

As part of the conditional agreement, British troops could freely pass through Transvaal, but as in Australia in the 1860's onwards, the Gold rush had completely changed the nature of the country and spurred enormous population movement and growth. Similarly, by the early 1890's, Transvaal's Boer population was quickly being outnumbered by the Uitlanders, the name given to those trying their luck in gold and diamond prospecting and search for wealth.

Most were British, but there was also many other nationalities including Australians. Cecil Rhodes, the famous Kimberly diamond miner, the richest man in the world at the time, and Prime Minister of Cape Colony,



## or know a descendant?

organised a conspiracy, mainly by a so called reform group of businessmen in Cape Town, and with the supposed help of the Uitlanders, would overthrow the Transvaal government and the British could again annex and rule the republic. The whole thing was a mitigated disaster with dire consequences for many of those that were involved.

In 1897, 43 year old Sir Alfred Milner was appointed governor of Cape Colony and high commissioner for South Africa. An extraordinary man, very intelligent, he aroused intense hatred in some and warm admiration in others and referred to himself as, "a civilian soldier of the empire."

Alfred Milner believed that the English were natural rulers and nobody should rule English people. The Uitlanders in Transvaal should govern that republic. In a letter he wrote to Joseph Chamberlain the Colonial Secretary dated 23 February 1898, "there is no way out of the political troubles in South Africa except reform in the Transvaal or war. And at present the chances of reform are worse than ever."

After years of simmering tension, friction and contrived or perceived incidents, there was now an aggressive advocate of this misguided conception of imperial doctrine.

Initially there was little interest by the British Government and the British Military in South Africa, who all saw that a "white on white" war in South Africa would be a long and costly one. Despite this Milner finally convinced Colonial Secretary Chamberlain, who had enormous political influence in cabinet and government, to change his views.

The British Government and people were slowly being prepared for war. In a last ditch conference with President Kruger of the republics and who clearly didn't want a conflict, Milner, despite advice from others, was hardnosed, provocative and uncompromising.

A very disheartened Kruger immediately ordered rifles and ammunition. The British Government ordered 22,000 extra troops to South Africa. Through all the years of 'cold war' diplomacy, provocation and minor conflicts, the British had never attempted to build up its forces in South Africa. Was it that they didn't because it would have suggested an imminent war with the Boers or did it reflect the general mood before Milner that nobody wanted war? Or was it simply the relevant cabinet minister never gave the order?

Using the Uitlanders in Transvaal as the 'imperial doctrine,' Milner, aided by the very influential and powerful Chamberlain, slowly convinced the British Government, and therefore the Empire, to go to war.

As part of the British Empire, the Australian colonies offered troops for the war in South Africa.

Australians served in contingents raised by the

six colonies or, from 1901, by the new Australian Commonwealth.

For a variety of reasons many Australians also joined British or South African colonial units in South Africa: some were already in South Africa when war broke out and others either made their own way to the Cape or joined local units after their enlistment in an Australian contingent ended. Recruiting was also done in Australia for units which already existed in South Africa, such as the Scottish Horse. Interestingly, a small number of Australians also fought with the Boers.

### **The National Boer War Memorial Association**

Are you a Boer War descendant or know of someone that is, or do you want to know more about Australia's involvement in this fascinating time in Australia's history? Visit the web site where you can also check out the Ancestor registrations link. National Boer War Memorial Association site: [www.bwm.org.au](http://www.bwm.org.au)

### **Your support and generosity would be appreciated and is needed.**

Donations are tax deductible.

Direct bank transfer to The Defence Bank

National Boer War Memorial Account BSB 803-205  
Account 2035 8376.

Please include your last name and initials on bank transfers.

Or please make cheques payable to National Boer War Memorial Association Inc.

Mail this donation to the Treasurer at the address shown and include your own address to allow a receipt to be mailed to you.

National Boer War Memorial Fund  
Building 96, Victoria Barracks,  
Paddington, NSW 2021

**Telephone** (02) 8335 5209 **Facsimile** (02) 8335 5357 **Email:** [secretary@bwm.org.au](mailto:secretary@bwm.org.au) **Website:** [www.bwm.org.au](http://www.bwm.org.au)

### **Boer War Day – Adelaide**

A Commemorative Service is held at the Boer War Memorial in front of the Governor's Residence, corner of North Terrace and King William Street, Adelaide, on the last Sunday in May each year at 11a.m. This well attended service, mainly by descendants and those who have interest in the Boer War.

### **Stop Press! Stop Press! Stop Press!**

**The Department of Defence has now approved a grant of \$1.45 million towards the completion of Australia's first national Boer War Memorial in Canberra, following through on the \$200,000 in seed funding provided by the Commonwealth in 2013.**

**That leaves just \$300,000 for the fund to raise between January and June: a realistic challenge for our many supporters.**



# Warriors return home evokes old memories

I attended the re-internment of **2Lt Alan Douglas Jellie**, Adelaide War Cemetery-Centennial Park, Pasadena, on 9 June 2016 after attending the re-internment of **WO 2 Maxwell Powell Handley**, MM, earlier the same day. I attended Jellie's service because of my close association with a number of Army helicopter pilots of 161 Independent Reconnaissance Flight who supported 3 RAR during its second tour of Vietnam in 1971.

Among those who flew me were 2Lt **Terry Hayes**, 2Lt **Fraser Gibson** and 2Lt **John Sonneveld**. They were all decorated with the DFC. I was delighted to discover John Sonneveld attended the funeral and we were able to meet briefly and have our photograph taken (at right) after the funeral. We had not met since 1971.

I recall these observations by Second Lieutenant John Sonneveld, who flew me around in a Sioux in Australia and Vietnam:

"I had better get back to my anecdotes about infantry commanding officers (COs). I have described how I saw Grey (CO 7RAR) and Church (CO 2RAR) perform. The next was Lt.Col. Scott of 3RAR.

I had flown Scott back in Australia while his Battalion was training at Canungra. He was a volatile, colourful, slightly more emotional chap than his peers. I was flying him somewhere east of Nui Dat near the centre of the Province when one of his troops was killed in action.<sup>1</sup>

He became emotional in the helicopter. Scott was a bit of a character. He was different to the other COs. They were all very different. Once I was flying Scott north of Phouc Tuy during a large operation involving Americans, our Armoured Corps Centurion tanks, Cavalry APCs, infantry, Artillery, the works.

The operation needed a lot of control because there were so many people and units involved. Our leaders failed to take into account or did not understand the limitations of radio retransmitters, 'retrans' as they were called. At the time I did not know the limitations either but I soon found out.

When several 'call signs' started using 'retrans' they start cutting each other out. There was a momentary delay between the initial transmission, which could be a call made by the Colonel in the helicopter or a commander on the ground, and the subsequent time taken for the 'retransmitter' to retransmit the radio voice message.

Normally when you had a lot of people wanting to speak on the radio, they would wait to hear the airway was clear before speaking, but with 'retrans' users were duped by its silent brief insipid delay. The end result was that people started jamming each other's transmissions and the whole system of radio communications broke down. Well there I was in the air with Col Scott and, to put it bluntly, the whole operation turned to 'shit'. For instance, the Cavalry APCs headed up the wrong road and could not be redirected by radio. As communications

jammed, command and control broke down and Scott got extremely frustrated. He and I had to ignore the 'retrans' system and dial up several individual unit's frequencies from the helicopter. While Scott was on one radio, I was recording messages and relaying them on another radio. To keep track of messages, I wrote many of them with Chinagraph pencil on the bubble of the Sioux helicopter.

For at least an hour it was chaos but somehow we sorted out the mess and the operation was retrieved. I was simply helping Scott.

By the end of that flight I was exhausted mentally as if I had just completed a couple of three-hour matriculation examinations. It was quite a day. Every piece of the Sioux's bubble, within arms reach, was covered in written text.

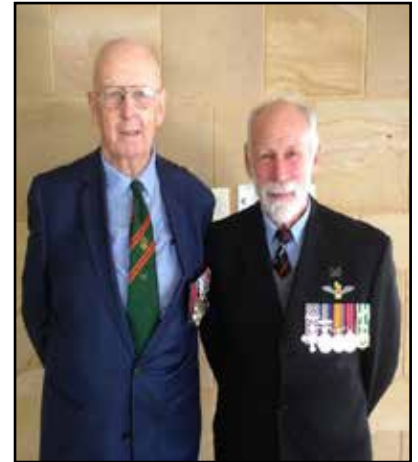
I had another memorable event with Col Scott. We were north in the province conducting a recce for a future operation. While I was flying the Sioux, Scott was studying his map and ground features. Remember now we flew with doors off. We were at 1500 feet or maybe 2000 feet above the ground to get an overall view of the area to be studied. Then it happened.

He lent a little too far into the door-less opening and the slipstream snatched his tactical map out of his hands. The map was marked with many of the Australian ground troop positions. Tactically this map was very important. I looked at Scott. He gave me an incredulous amazed look. And without a word I proceeded to chop up the map with the main rotors as it fluttered to the ground.

I almost turned the Sioux inside out but managed to cut most of the map into tiny useless pieces before it reached the ground.

Unfortunately, one reasonable sized piece of the map made its way intact to the ground. So Col Scott instructed me to land. I landed in a clearing, many miles from Australian troops. Scott cocked his Browning pistol, hopped out of the helicopter and retrieved the remnant of his map.<sup>2</sup>

- Peter Scott DSO Rtd



*Peter Scott with John Sonneveld.*

1. Would have been 2Lt David Paterson on 20 March 1971.

2. This is an extract of John Sonneveld's biography published in 'The Scheyvillian' O.T.U. National Newsletter No 3, 2003.



## 2016 ANZAC MARCH



3 RAR



2 RAR



9 RAR lead by Laurie Lewis



8 RAR



2/4 followed by 5/7 RAR



6 RAR



Left: 3 RAR  
boosted  
by the C  
Company  
2nd Tour  
SVN Reunion



1 RAR



RARA SA lead by  
President Michael von Berg



2 RAR





4 Section Gun pit F. S. B. Balmoral early morning after the first attack 26 May 1968. 3789749 Pte Paul Donnelly and 2786784 Pte "Pommie" Robertshaw.

One of Australia's unrecognised Vietnam War heroes died on June 10. His Tour of Duty was with 3 RAR 1967-68.

His name was Pte Ian 'Pommie' Robertshaw. His position in the company was 2IC to 4 Section, 11 Platoon, 'D' Company. Machine Gunner Pte Paul Donnelly is also an unrecognised hero.

They, Paul and Ian, were one of the machine gun crews which took the brunt of the two NVA/VC assaults on FSB Balmoral, 26 and 28 May, 1968.

\* \* \*

Comment by David Bradbury:

Ian "Pommie" Robertshaw was one of the veterans I interviewed for TheCrater about 18 months ago for his reflections on his service as a conscript to Vietnam in 1968.

His story particularly struck me as one of the saddest stories I've heard of all the vets I interviewed for TheCrater. And I heard some sad, tragic stories both from and after the Vietnam war.

Ian told me his story over more than one or two schooners of beer that Sunday afternoon. Pommie's loving mates who got him to front my camera very nervously at first, told me Ian usually began his drinking in the morning after several glasses of red wine just to get him started and out of bed.

Ian told me how he had come to Australia as a ten pound Pom in the 1960s. He got a good apprenticeship and trade which looked like setting him up for life. He was granted Australian citizenship which ironically made him eligible for the draft and his marble came out of the barrel. He was called up to serve his new country in Vietnam. He was there as No 2 to machine gunner Paul Donnelly as hundreds of NVA soldiers came running at the Australian lines, determined to kill the invaders on the two horrific nights of the battle for Fire Support base Balmoral.

He was there for the death a few days earlier of "Joe" Lewis which hit the whole company real bad. He told me the whole experience of war traumatised him for the rest of his life as it did for many of his fellow vets. When he returned to Australia and was discharged, he tried to enter the RSL but the Old Guard who ran the RSL in those days turned him away, scoffing that his was not a real war. Not like what they'd fought in World War II. He binned his Vietnam war medals shortly after that and distanced himself from his mates he'd served with. He ended his days in the cheap boarding house not too far from the Ashfield RSL club where I interviewed him, too poor to own his own place or even get a Housing Commission home for his service to country.

Submitted by Brian Cleaver.



Among those who attended Joe Szabo's funeral were front row: Guy Bagot, Dave Blumer, unknown, Moira McKay, and Queensland 9 RAR Secretary Dave MacDonald. Second row: Queensland 9 RAR President Kevin Lynch, George Placek, Sylvia Placek, Loretta Patterson, Brian Goff and Kevin Jefferies. Third row: Banjo Patterson, Rod Slater and Johnny Prince. Blue Nancarrow was an apology.

Joe Szabo was a forward scout of 9 platoon C Coy 9RAR and much respected by us all hence the turnout of South Queensland 9RAR veterans, widows and wives. He was a tough little bloke who did his duty in Vietnam with courage and skill. Many of us owe our lives to him and the manner in which he did his very dangerous job for 13 months in the jungle. We shall not forget our Joe.

- Guy Bagot and Mick Mummery for caption

### Murray Bridge street march to honour Battle of Long Tan soldiers

Murray Bridge RSL will conduct a street march and commemoration service on Saturday 20 August to pay homage to those 18 soldiers who died during the Battle of Long Tan on 18 August 1966..

The march is open to all former and current serving personnel (not just Vietnam veterans) and the service is open to everyone in the community.



The special guest will be State RSL President Brigadier Tim Hanna AM RFD (pictured).

Vice President David Laing said: "I would love you to pass this information on to everyone in the RAR family who

wishes to participate on the day.

"The March will begin at Diamond Park on the corner of Adelaide and Mannum Roads at 1000 hrs and proceed to the Murray Bridge Town Hall, a distance of about 300 metres.

"At 1015 hrs a Commemoration Service will be held at the town hall, lasting about 50 minutes.

"Afterwards everyone is welcome to gather at the Murray Bridge RSL for drinks and nibbles", he said.

David Laing  
Vice President of Murray Bridge RSL  
davidlaing49@bigpond.com.



# 65th Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong Commemorative Service



Veterans including Kapyong veterans Mick Woodley, Keith Thomas, John Mackie, Rocky Anock and Ray Aubert were keen to have their photos taken with Veterans Affairs Minister Martin Hamilton Smith and Peter Scott on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong.

On 24 April 2016 3 RAR SA conducted a commemorative service to mark the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong 23 -25 April 1951. Veterans of the Battle who attended the Service were Reg Rocky Anock (A Company), Reg Aubert (C Company), Keith Thomas (D Company) and John Mackie (HQ Company) from 3 RAR and Mick Woodley of the Middlesex Regiment. Since last year Jack Wilson has passed away and Allan Bennett was absent in a nursing home while Don Beard was with the Battalion in Townsville. This year we had support of Chaplain Mark Dickens, 10/27 RSAR with a catafalque party, flag orderlies and bugler Musician Michael Bampton, Catherine Lambert, Rosemary Bilac and the Terrace Singers and Pipe Major Des Ross.

Adrian Craig, Ceremonial 3 RAR SA



WO1 Michael Reyne, RSM 10/27 RSAS, and RARA SA Patron Laurie Lewis AM. Laurie said: "I always enjoy talking to RSM Reyne. He keeps me up to date on a number of issues, mainly related to new service conditions. He is a good example of the high standard expected of RSMs in today's Army. I hope the Army does its utmost to retain the services of men like RSM Reyne."



John Jarrett, President of the Korean & South East Asia Forces Association, with the medal presented by the Republic of Korea, and his wife Shirley.



Kim and Peter Hallam with daughter Erin, 3. Peter is one of the former 3 RAR personnel currently serving in 7 RAR at Edinburgh. Peter's father Geoff Hallam and his brother Greg were also present.



Frances Bedford, MP; Leesa Vlahos MP; Patron Laurie Lewis; Duncan McFetridge, MP, and Martin-Hamilton Smith.

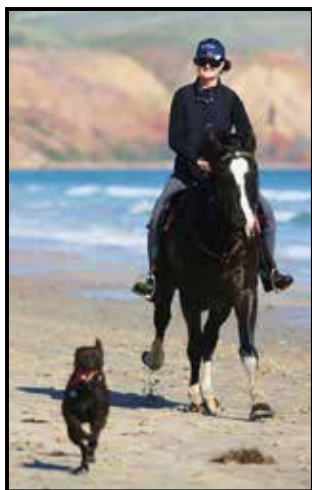


Martin Hamilton-Smith, Member for Waite and Minister for Defence Industries and Minister for Veterans' Affairs, showed emotion as he waited to place his wreath.



Former 3 RAR personnel currently serving in 7 RAR at Edinburgh pictured with (centre) Colonel Peter Scott DSO Rtd (from right) Beau Hutton, Robert Cooper, Ray Grima, Sean McCall, Tim Fitzgerald, Pete Hallam, Mark Adcock, Chris Gilmore and Adam Paris.

Members of the catafalque party from 10/27 RSAS Keswick were Sgt Tyrone Barnacle-Watts, flag orderly; Cpl Mark Blundell, guard commander; Lcpl Riley Brad, sentry; Pte Wadi Abareh, waiting member; Pte James Chaplin, sentry; Pte Tyer McMahon, sentry; Pte David Williams, flag orderly; and Pte Paul Zuromski, sentry.



## THE WALER:

# The magnificent Australian war horse

*TODAY Left:  
Georgia and  
Buster.*

*YESTERYEAR  
Right: Michael  
and his younger  
brother on Dolly.*

*FOREVER Far  
right: The Waler  
memorial in  
Tamworth.*



**M**uch has been written in this the Centenary of ANZAC and the horrific years of warfare which followed with the loss of 60,000 soldiers killed in action and 156,000 wounded, gassed or taken prisoner. But not much has been written about the contribution of the horse in this terrible war and its losses. There were six million horses lost in WW1 and only one horse of the 136,000 shipped from Australia made it back at the end of WW1 and that horse was Sandy, who belonged to Major General Sir William Bridges, who was killed at Gallipoli.

Most of the 136,000 would have either been killed in action or left behind, and one would think in a pretty poor condition where survival would have been difficult.

The horses shipped to support the war effort were a special Australian breed, yet few people know anything about them. It was only in the last few years when a good friend of mine purchased one for his daughter that all the old memories came back, as to what made these horses so special.

The breed is called a "Waler" and is a mixture of breeds incorporating the Thoroughbred, the Arab, the Cape Horse from South Africa, the Timor Pony and the Clydesdale or Percheron, both draft horses, which really were not considered a specific breed from the outset.

As these horses, bred for the harsh Australian conditions, started to make their mark as a very hardy horse with great endurance, even when operating in extreme conditions and stress, through a lack of food or water, they quickly became the mount of choice for stockmen, bushrangers, the military and exploration teams in early Australia.

An indication as to how tough these horses were was one well known Waler, Major Michael Shanahan's mount, Bill the Bastard, who bucked when asked to gallop. Yet, when the Major found four Australians outflanked by the Turks in WW1, Bill the Bastard carried all five men – three on his back and one on each stirrup – .75 miles (1.21 km) through soft sand at a lumbering gallop without first bucking.

An extraordinary feat which makes the handicap penalties for a Melbourne Cup runner seem pretty ordinary. The Waler is now a recognised breed and the photograph above of my mate's daughter Georgia, who is an excellent horsewoman, riding her Waler on the beach near us is a magnificent shot of animal and rider. My own introduction to this breed was on the farm, as a young kid many years ago. Dolly, a 12-year-old mare, was the most placid, manageable and obedient horse imaginable until turned for home and visions of the stall and chaff box loomed. Then all bets were off.

I now know how Maj Shanahan must have felt with Bill

the Bastard because containing Dolly and keeping her in check was no easy feat and at the end of it I knew I had been taken for a ride.

Logs, fences, creeks, livestock and farm gates all must have seemed to Dolly unnecessary obstacles as she cleared all or maneuvered around them with considerable ease with me hanging on purely as a passenger or spectator until we eased up near our home paddock and stalls.

With my younger brother she was as gentle as a horse can be but out in the field once she had made up her mind contrary to the operator's wishes it became a matter of "hang on and enjoy the ride". She really was a beautiful horse as seen in the picture above with my little brother in tow in 1956 on the property in the Riverina.

When I think of my Dolly and Georgia and her beautiful horse Buster, two Walers I have had association with, it brings home the thought of 136,000 of these beautiful animals who were like so many good men slaughtered or wounded in this terrible war. To the best of my knowledge there is only one memorial dedicated to the Waler and that is the Memorial to the Light Horse in Tamworth which is also called The Tamworth Waler Memorial. It was funded through public donations and unveiled by Maj Gen Digger James in 2005, another sadly now deceased, great war horse.

In the aftermath of war, the cost is often put down to men, machines, economics and politics and no mention of horse, dog or bird, all who contributed to the war effort. Although the horse was an essential part of the mix in WW1, it seems difficult to reconcile that 136,000 of these great Australian war horses never came back and that is very sad.

As Lt Col RMP Preston of the Desert Mounted Corps stated: "They were stylish, stout, well-shaped, rather short-legged useful horses, with good clear bone, sound legs and feet, they concealed their excellence's under a plain exterior. It was no uncommon thing for horses fed on nothing but the natural grasses of the country to carry an ordinary sized man 80 and in some cases even a 100 miles in 24 hours".

**I sincerely hope we as a nation never forget and always respect what these animals contributed to the war effort. Thankfully now through the Waler Horse Owners and Breeders Australia Inc., the sustainability, integrity and history of this wonderful horse will be enshrined as an important part of our military history and our Australian cultural folklore.**

**- Michael von Berg MC OAM**



Waiting to bring up the tail end of this year's ANZAC Day parade were the horses and riders of the historical re-enactment troop of the Barossa Light Horse Historical Association.



Sharon Gunter, dressed as a WW1 Army nursing sister, with riders and flag bearers Bill Gunter, Geoff Pannell, Bruce Naismith, James Hurst, Martin Hilton, Steve Dear, Andrew Mephram, Julian Stokes and Ashley Roberts.

## Keeping the war horses' history alive to portray the heritage of an era

The Barossa Light Horse Historical Association is an historical re-enactment troop based in Williamstown which strives to accurately portray the skills and heritage of the men who served in the Australian Light Horse during the First World War.

The association takes its name from the 23rd Light Horse Regiment, Barossa Light Horse. The 23rd was a South Australian militia regiment, comprising troops from Adelaide, Tea Tree Gully, Gawler, and Kapunda. The regiment formed part of the 8th Cavalry Brigade, of the 4th Military District. The 23rd was established in July 1912 and disbanded in May 1942.

The association began in 1983, being officially established in 1985 with 14 members. The Barossa

Troopers made their first public appearance at the Gawler country show in September that year.

Annually the Barossa troopers participate in city and regional ANZAC Day parades and on numerous other occasions. Several members regularly lecture at schools. Over the last few years Barossa troopers have provided escorts for the Governor General, State Governors, Inspecting Military Officers, Politicians, Cobb & Co coaches and bridal carriages. Every year the Barossa Light Horse troop remembers the service of their horses in what is believed to be the only ANZAC service of its kind with a dedication to the animals.

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## Water trough in Adelaide's CBD memorial to war horses

The War Horse Memorial on the corner of East Terrace and Botanic Road commemorates the thousands of horses which served in the First World War - 1914 to 1919. This was the last war in which horses were used extensively. Modern artillery made them too vulnerable and their offensive role was replaced by tanks.

Costs and quarantine concerns were given as reasons for them not being brought home. Strong feelings about the fate of the horses may have contributed to the creation of the memorial.

The initial suggestion for a war horse memorial came from the Register newspaper. By mid 1919 returned soldiers, racing clubs and members of the public had contributed £200 towards its construction. But this amount was insufficient, so an organising committee was appointed under the auspices of Lord Mayor Charles Glover to raise funds. Glover was inspired to lend his support to the project both by the role of horses in wars and by a memorial erected in South Africa in honour of horses were killed in the Boer War. The memorial was to take the form of a drinking trough with bronze plaques and a kneeling bronze trooper. It was most likely the memorial at Port Elizabeth, which matches that description.

However, momentum for the memorial was lost when the secretary of the committee, Captain Norman Malcolm of the 9th Australian Light Horse Regiment, moved to Western Australia. It was not until January 1921 that the proposal was revived by Miss E. S. Abbott, a reporter for the Register, and Alec Morrison. Public meetings reignited interest and further funds were secured from racing clubs. Eventually £248.14s 9d was raised – enough for a simple memorial consisting of a stone water trough which could be used by working horses, and accompanying bronze plaques. A small surplus was



donated to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The War Horse Memorial was designed by architect Alfred Wells and sculpted by W.H. Martin Ltd of Unley. It is made of Harcourt Victorian granite and weighs about a tonne. The trough is 4.9m long and raised on a short stone base. The proportions and rough finish of the trough symbolise the strength and toughness of the bush horses or walers of the Australian Light Horse, which were highly prized. Light horse regiments comprised mounted infantry as distinct from cavalry. Many South Australian men from country areas served in these regiments. As working horses are no longer used in the city, the trough does not contain water.

The inscription on the back plaque reads:

*This trough was erected by public subscription to commemorate the noble service of Australian horses towards the Empire's victories in the Great War 1914-1918. "He paweth in the valley, and rejoiceth in his strength: He goeth on to meet the armed men. He mocketh at fear, and is not affrighted; neither turneth he back from the sword." Job 39, 21 and 22.*

- From the internet

# 2016 REGIMENTAL DINNER IN SPOTLIGHT

## STRENGTH AND COURAGE, LIFE OF AN ARMY WIFE

### or How to keep calm and carry on while attached to the military

Good evening everyone.

My name is Annaliese McCammon and I am the COW of 7RAR. No, I'm not trying to insinuate that I have any resemblance to a farm animal or that I may have a bit of a nasty streak. As we all know, the military has more than its fair share of acronyms. So that stands for the Commanding Officers Wife. But if you pronounce the "C" literally I could more appropriately be a SOW, I guess, as the 7th Battalion is known as the "Pig Battalion".

Well, that's not quite what I'd thought I'd be describing myself as, when I met my husband-to-be 13 years ago in the UK, which was probably the start of my life as a military spouse. We're both Australian, but had to travel to the other side of the world to meet each other. And I am guessing that roughly half of you here (the better half of course) have also been in the same position as me, sort of attached to the military.

I actually had a little bit to do with the military before I met my husband, as a physiotherapist attached to the British defence forces, (I'll just add that he was never a patient of mine). I thought I knew what I was getting myself into, but nothing really prepares you for the constant moving and dealing with long absences of the serving member, until you experience it. You also become a little more acquainted with Murphy's Law – as a military spouse. The saying that "anything that can go wrong will go wrong" seems to morph into "anything that can go wrong will go wrong and it will happen, while they are away" and of course they are away a lot.

Our eldest son has had his father away on deployments for about a third of his life, and he is only nine. That doesn't count for any of the weeks away for training and exercises, and I think there are probably another two months a year that they are not at home that are due to that? Well, while he was away I think we have had a couple of sets of stitches but nothing too serious yet really. However, life as an army wife is not for the faint hearted!

Anyway, back to my romance with the military. The honeymoon period was quite exciting really: lots of travel, they get a posting order and you decide it's serious. You tag along to the new location and move in together, usually somewhere far away from where

you, and your support networks come from. Then, they suddenly disappear for around six months. I think the **first** deployment is always a bit of a shock to the system. That person you spend your evenings with is no longer there. There's suddenly this void of time you need to fill.

But you're young and you fill this with going to the gym or go out with friends, perhaps plan a wedding, and maybe a few needy phone calls with spouse to be.

Then they wise up and as the next deployment looms, they buy you a dog. Or two as in our case, to keep you entertained. And then a baby arrives - or four in our family. We have four chickens as well. And now I don't have any spare time to fret and worry about him or us while he is away. No time for needy phone calls. I am knackered by the end of the day, just trying to keep on top of the household chores.

I am stoked if I can manage to stay awake for an extra half an hour, after wrangling the kids into bed to be able to watch some TV with a cup of tea, or perhaps a glass of wine, depending on how the day has gone. And

that's about it for me for the next five months in the evenings while my husband is away. Except for tonight of course - it is lovely to be out for dinner without the kids in tow!

Actually, now I think about it, on each previous deployment since after we were married I was pregnant. We have often joked that one baby could have been called ROCL

Hoi An. Our last was born within 10 hours of David arriving back for his deployment leave. We have just begun another deployment. But no,

I'm not pregnant, I think four is quite enough children to have; those doors are closed!

Back to the ROCL term. More acronyms, I believe ROCL is the one for deployment leave.

I had to check that on PACMAN which seems to be a glossary of them. Not the old computer game but the all important pay and conditions manual which dictates entitlements. I had the pleasure of becoming a little more acquainted with PACMAN during my volunteer days for Defence Families of Australia, as a National Delegate then as their first policy officer. DFA is an advocacy group appointed by the government to represent the views of Defence families.

There I really began to understand a bit more about being an army wife. I was lucky enough to be in the position to hear all the gripes with Defence life, but also in the privileged position to help find solutions to them - to clarify or resolve whatever issues came up.



*INA MANNER MOST BECOMING: Above: Guest speaker Anna McCammon (right) chats with (from left) Mal and Brenna Chia, Royal Australian Regiment Association President Michael von Berg, and his partner Denise Rowe.*

Continued page 16





*RARA SA President Michael von Berg MC OAM with his partner Denise Rowe and Vice President Rod Graham and his wife, Lynn, who is Committee Minute Secretary. Right from left: Karen Abel, Kay Crocks and Di Fairhead.*

A very successful formal dinner was held at the club with a great roll up of members and friends of the Association on Saturday June 25.

Fifty people were served a magnificent meal by Hand Made Catering of the Barossa Valley, the staff excelling themselves in not only in the quality of the food but presenting and serving the meals and drinks to the members.

Hands On is a turnkey catering business which can tailor the evening to suit your budget incorporating the setting of tables with cutlery, crockery and other fineries; serving the meals, and cleaning up afterwards, which is just fantastic. This is the only way all of our team can sit, relax and enjoy the evening because, too often, many of our team members are missing out on some of the wonderful events we have at the club because they are working back stage. Our gourmand food critic and chef extraordinaire Colin was very impressed so we know we got it right.

As well as the good food, wines and good company, our guest speaker was Annaliese McCammon, the wife of David McCammon, CO of 7RAR, currently in Iraq.

We have enough war and macho stories around the club where the various wars are won, over and over. So it was felt opportune to have Annaliese deliver the keynote speech "Strength and Courage – The Life of an Army Wife", which was extremely well received. Although we have all been out of it for a while, it just brought back how hard and difficult it can be for a wife and family of serving soldiers.

Her speech is published so those unable to be present can appreciate the issues wives of serving members have to address. Most importantly through, Annaliese's speech gave an insight into a wonderful woman who "keeps the home fires burning" while looking after four children under nine years of age, holding down a professional job and being the maternal champion of the Battalion while the team is overseas.

\* \* \*

Due to the constant cost cutting exercises imposed by the Government of the day at Brigade, Battalion and schools levels, we are losing the history, traditions and spirit of the Officers and Sergeants Messes, to such an extent that the catering arrangements and service of meals is unacceptable.

The new purpose built messes are sterile and cold without any heart or soul; the aesthetics are more like a factory canteen or a Qantas Lounge. Although the food in the Qantas Lounge is infinitely better, the décor is commercial and functional, just like some of the new messes.

In a very small way we here at the Royal Australian Regiment Association are determined to keep the spirit and traditions of the Regimental Officers and Sergeants Messes alive in a completely egalitarian and non-rank like way where our members who may have not had the opportunity to share in the festivities, fun and protocols of a formal dining-in night have the opportunity to not only take part but contribute in "keeping the spirit alive".

Michael von Berg



# 2016 REGIMENTAL DINNER IN SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 14

So, what are the secrets to coping as a Defence spouse? How do we have the courage and strength to keep calm and carry on, despite: Dealing with regular relocation of our life-work and schools; coping with an all or nothing disappearing partner, who is there one minute and gone the next and being away from our support networks of family and friends while this is occurring?

Well, there are plenty of help and support networks out there from Defence spouses helping to run community houses or classes put on by the Defence Community Organisation or the members' unit. DCO also importantly puts a few functions on for deployed members families.

These occasions can help you become resilient to this life, which is fraught with constant upheavals from moving every year or two and coping with the absences of your partner. These special events are a bit of a silver lining to dealing with all of these challenges.

Important initiatives provided to Defence families, such as partners employment and education program have been particularly helpful to me. Due to constantly moving I am unable to hold the same job. I have never been able to accrue maternity or annual leave - not so helpful financially. And with the need to keep up with Continuing Professional Development to stay registered, this scheme has really helped me stay employable.

Many spouses work these days. It can be hard to keep your sense of self, with such constant changing scenery to your life. I find work also helps to give me purpose and the strength and courage to keep me going in my routine, while my husband is away. I believe it is also important when our military partners are deployed to make an effort to catch up with other people in the same situation: with other deployed spouses, or people who understand what you're going through. You're usually away from your family and support, and it does help to be able to laugh or cry and deal with whatever might come up with someone else who really gets it. I remember when one of my friends had a terrible migraine, so I put my hand up and went right over to offer support as both of our husbands were away. However, I, myself, was also incredibly sick (my one pregnant downfall - I still can't believe I went back another three times).

We both just sat on the couch, not talking as we were both feeling like we were about to throw up, until about 20 minutes later when I was feeling well enough to drive before I headed off home again. But we both needed it - that mutual reflective silence! Those friendships are important and are another pillar of strength which helps us to be resilient.

The nice thing is the longer you are attached to the military, the more amazing friends you make and the more often you bump into familiar faces. On the flip side though, you are quite often far away from these friends you have made. And your family/parents or support network is also somewhere else. Having been in this position many times, we are rarely without dinner guests over the weekend and make an effort to look after people who are away from their partners, friends or family. It is not just the spouse who has to keep their chin up through these tough times - there are so many other elements which give that person the strength, courage and hope to "keep calm, and carry on" down this path we

follow to many different destinations.

We are very fortunate to have been given our #pigletarmy T-shirts for the children attached to the battalion from the South Australian government. The motif was taken from the units pig mascot and appears on some of the serving members clothing. This is a little extra something these children can identify with. They can show their support, and feel a little supported with their own little army T-shirt. Perhaps it can help them to feel a bit more of a part of this deployment, while dealing with missing their parent.

Another great support has been shown to our Defence families is by Adelaide's Advertiser cartoonist, Joss Valdman. He designed Willy, off the Battalion's pig mascot, who is now a regular feature in his cartoons - a bit like "Where's Wally", except it is "Where's Willy".

Seeing this small reminder in the paper makes these families feel special and gives them something to look forward to, while the battalion is away. My children just love it, so keep an eye out for him in the paper!

And I really appreciate those here tonight who have made me feel so welcome and have been most generous with offers of support while my family as I go through yet another deployment.

Thank you for being there for me, and for the Battalion. So, any suggestions would be most welcome on activities that can provide a place for these families left behind to get together and make more networks, or perhaps you have in mind something that could be put together to make these spouses and children feel special to be a part of the Adelaide Defence community?

Because it is these things that give you the strength and courage to continue to be a Defence spouse.

As A.A. Milne of "Winnie the Pooh" fame reminded us in his poem "Buckingham Palace" - "A soldier's life is terrible hard". Let us not forget that so too is the life of those left at home.

Thank goodness for all our support networks and the camaraderie of all who support our families while our soldiers, soldier on.

Well, moving on now... literally. I think we have moved house about 10 times in the last 13 years. It's always difficult moving. My nine-year-old has already had three different schools and about to have a fourth. I think it takes around two months on departing to sort the inventory and lock down a suitable house, then sort schools and childcare, then work for yourself, before starting on the monster clean. Then you have about six months to settle into new surroundings and meet people you're comfortable to hang out with, and for the kids to find a group of friends and feel like they "fit in". Then the stressful hunt to try and find a good babysitter - a most important task with all of your support networks usually at least a day's travel away. So sometimes if you're only on a one-year posting, you might get three to four months or so of a nice steady rhythm to your life before the whole process starts again. Luckily this has been a two-year one for us, but we are again awaiting our posting orders. It will be sad to leave at the end of this year. It has been one of our longer postings and has really started to feel like home. So thank you, Adelaide, and thank you all for the support you give to our Defence members and their families.



# 2016 REGIMENTAL DINNER IN SPOTLIGHT



From left: The Duthie brothers, Ken, School Military History Officer, Dennis and Ray. Right: Chef de Cuisine Colin Abel and Sergeant John Ford, who worked in army publication relations as a cameraman in Vietnam. He is one of the 13 photographers whose work over 10 years in producing movies, newsreels and black and white photos is recorded in the Australian War Memorial .

Handmade Catering handled the menu with Deane, Shannon and Matthew, right, in the kitchen, while (far right) Event Manager Nicole Ramsey and staff members were in the garden preparing other courses.





# South Australians among supporters of War Graves photo project

The War Graves Photographic Project has undertaken the immense task of recording, archiving and making available to the descendants images of the graves or memorial listings of every service casualty since the outbreak of the First World War.

By utilising an archive of images taken by a dedicated band of volunteers around the world we are able to offer the facility to search for individual casualties and provide a photograph or digital image if required.

Such a task is reliant solely on volunteers who give freely of their time and ability to visit, record and catalogue the many hundreds of thousands of graves and monuments scattered around the world. These volunteers and their commitment are now at the disposal of individuals who seek photographs of their antecedent's final resting place or memorial.



L/Cpl PA Chant, 9 Battalion.  
RSL Walls, Centennial  
Park, SA

To date (2016) we have been able to record more than 1.8 million named graves and memorials and the task continues. Whether it is an individual covering a particular cemetery or churchyard or a team of volunteers working together as a group to cover a specific area of conflict, the aim of the Project is to record and

make available, photographs of as many war graves and memorials as possible so there is a pictorial record of yesterday's sacrifices for tomorrow's descendants. [www.twgpp.org](http://www.twgpp.org)

Ollie Wauer and Bob Whelan, in Bob'sX Trail, accompanied four good men - Jim Fisher leading the group with Lance Mossop, Terry McElligott and Felix Segui - on their bikes on the trip to take part in The War Graves Photographic Project (TWGPP), a voluntary organisation based in the UK.

The group wants to have photographs and GPS locations of every war grave in the world, a mammoth task slowly being achieved by using volunteers world wide.

David and Jan Stacey have been contributing to the site since 2011 with photographs and GPS locations of private and official graves of Vietnam war dead in Australia. They invited Jim and Lyn Fisher to become involved which they have done tirelessly ever since. Prior to the recent repatriation of remains from Terendak all of Western Australia, South Australia, Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory had been completed.

Recently, Jim took the little group of veterans on a 10-day trip covering about 2000 km to Batlow, Orange, Goulburn and Gunning in NSW to take photos and record locations. This was no small feat at their own expense and through all kinds of weather. These blokes have been doing this many times but there is still more to be done.

Much of country Victoria has been done and all at Springvale Botanical Cemetery but there are still some in Melbourne to be covered. There are plenty around



Private T. C. Turner, 5  
Battalion, Kingscote,  
Kangaroo Island.



Private L. H. McPherson, 9  
Battalion, Karrakatta, WA.



David and Jan Stacey placed  
a bunch of red roses from  
Reims at the grave of Jan's  
great-uncle Pte F S Spargo,  
43rd AIF, Peronne, France. "Syd"  
was KIA aged 33 in the  
Battle of Mont Saint-Quentin  
on 1 September 1918.



Terry McElligott and Jim  
Fisher at the grave of  
Private R. J. Gaffney, 9  
Battalion, Mudgee, NSW.



Above: L/Cpl R. M  
.Woolford, 2 RAR,  
Wirrabara, SA.

Left: L/Cpl A. V. Quigley 3  
Battalion. Catholic Section,  
Centennial Park, SA.

Sydney and north east of NSW and a similar story in Brisbane and Queensland.

None of the graves in Tasmania has yet been recorded or photographed. The Staceys planned trip in April in 2016 was cancelled due to David's health. A mobile phone gives a great photo and a very accurate grid reference. If anyone is travelling around and wishes to help in this great project please do so

Currently Jim forwards the information and photos to Jan Stacey who adds details to a spread sheet and this data is emailed to the Project Manager of TWGPP, Steve Rogers.

If you wish to help with the TWGPP project email Jim Fisher on [fishernine@gmail.com](mailto:fishernine@gmail.com) [www.twgpp.org](http://www.twgpp.org)



## DATES FOR COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES

### Long Tan 50th Anniversary and Vietnam Veterans' Day August 18

On Thursday 18 August 2016 a combined commemorative service for the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan and Vietnam Veterans' Day will be held at the Vietnam War Memorial on the northern side of the Torrens Training Depot parade ground.

The service will be a combined RAR Association SA and RSL SA service in nature.

In a change from the recent past there will be no concert after the



commemorative service nor a march from the Adelaide CBD to the parade ground.

In fact Vietnam Veterans Day will be conducted on the promulgated date of August 18 rather than on the nearest Sunday to the 18th as it has in the past in South Australia.

The commemorative service will commence at 11am and should be about one hour in duration. Food and drinks will be on sale after the service.

As a mark of respect to the war dead of the Vietnam War those attending are requested to wear decoration and medals. The RAR point of contact is Adrian Craig, Ceremonial Manager; 8263 4784 and [as.craig9rar@bigpond.com](mailto:as.craig9rar@bigpond.com)

**Adrian Craig, Ceremonial**

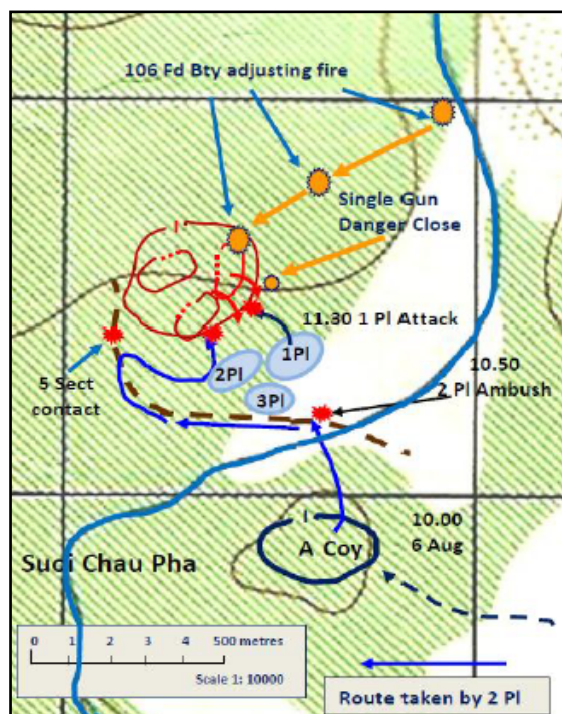
### Commemorative Service for 7 RAR Battle of Suoi Chau Pha South Vietnam August 6

The battle history of 7 RAR is long and memorable, dating from Gallipoli through to present-times in Iraq and Afghanistan. Each year we meet to honour and remember those of our brotherhood who paid the ultimate price in order to protect this great nation, and to honour the commitment inherent in our Regimental motto – "Duty First".

To commemorate this sacrifice, we hold a service each year on 6th August to recognise and honour those men who were killed or wounded in battle, and we use the Battle of Suoi Chau Pha as the lynch-pin of this service.

This year, the memorial service for the Battle of Soui Chau Pha will be held at the R.A.R. headquarters at 11 Beatty Street, Linden Park, on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August, at 10.30am for an 11.00am start.

Any and all interested parties are urged to contact Noel Biggins, President of the 7RAR Association on 0410412724, or by email on [nbiggins@internode.on.net](mailto:nbiggins@internode.on.net) if you are anticipating attending.



### 3 RARA SA 65th anniversary of the Battle of Maryang San Commemorative Service October 7

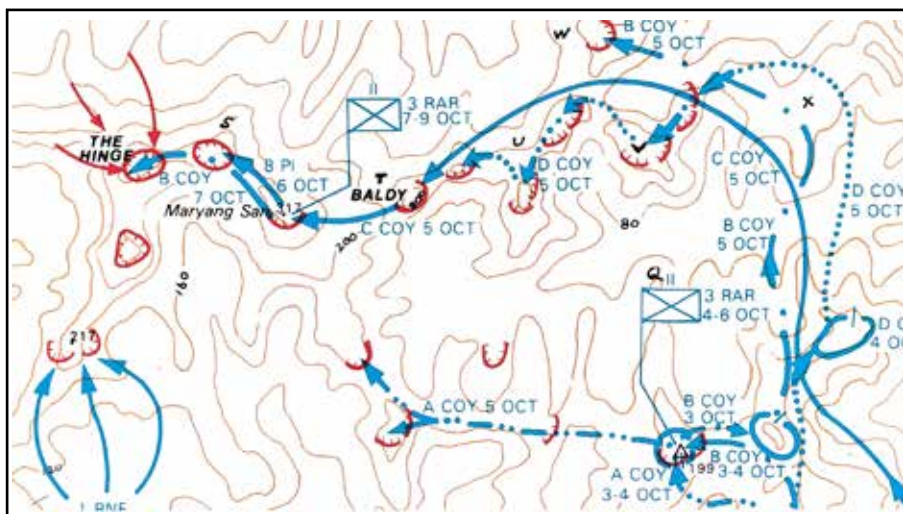
On Friday 7 October 2016 the 3 RAR Association SA will conduct a commemorative service to mark the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of Maryang San at the RAR RSL Linden Park at 1100 hours.

The Royal Australian Regiment was awarded the battle honour Maryang San 3 RAR's actions 2-8 October 1951 as part of Operation Commando.

The service will be held in the clubrooms.

A light lunch will follow and it is hoped to have some music entertainment during lunch.

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



Questions about the service and lunch should be addressed to the Ceremonial Officer 3 RAR Association on (08) 8263 4784 or [as.craig9rar@bigpond.com](mailto:as.craig9rar@bigpond.com)

# Queen's Birthday Awards to distinguished servicemen

**Member (AM) in the Military Division of the Order of Australia:**

**Brigadier Christopher Antony Field. CSC, Queensland .**

For exceptional service to the Australian Army as the Chief Operations and Plans, Queensland Reconstruction Authority in 2011, and as the Chief of Staff of Headquarters Forces Command from 2012.

Brigadier Field has consistently and without compromise contributed to the Australian Army as the Chief of Operations and Plans, Queensland Reconstruction Authority; and as the Chief of Staff, Headquarters Forces Command. His exceptional planning, communication and leadership skills ensured the establishment of extensive networks that have enhanced the success of the organisations he has worked within. He has had a significant impact on the transformation and modernisation of Forces Command.

(Brigadier Chris Field is the current Commander 3rd Brigade, at Lavarack Barracks, Townsville, Qld. Brigadier Field previously served as commanding officer of 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1 RAR) and with both 2/4 RAR and 2 RAR.)

**Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the Military Division:**

**Warrant Officer Class One Andrew Leonard Platt. Northern Territory.**

For meritorious service as the Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant of the 2nd Commando Regiment, 1st Commando Regiment and the 5th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment. Warrant Officer Class One Platt's unwavering professionalism, outstanding work ethic, meticulous attention to detail and exceptional leadership have enhanced every unit to which he has been posted. He has developed systems and introduced mechanisms to enhance equipment management and maintenance across multiple units and on operations. He has made a direct and lasting contribution to maintaining Army capability and instigated cultural change through exceptional equipment management procedures and firm leadership.

**Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the Military Division:**

**Warrant Officer Class Two Michael James Carroll, USA**

For meritorious achievement as the Company Sergeant Major of the Ready Combat Team and Operations Warrant Officer of the Ready Battalion Group, 1st Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment.

**Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division:**

**Mr Ross Trevor Langford, Queensland.**

For service to veterans, and to the community. Service includes: National President, 5th/7th Battalion



Royal Australian Regiment Association (5/7 RAR), 2007/2014. Collaborated with the Australian War Memorial in 2012 in organising the installation of a plaque dedicated to the 5/7 RAR at the Memorial. 5/7 RAR Delegate, Department of Veterans' Affairs Training Group Chair Welfare Committee, Queensland Branch, Royal Australian Regiment Association (RARAQ), current and Welfare Officer and Foundation Member, since 2005 and Member, Dad's Army Group (responsible for the maintenance of the Regiment's National Memorial Walk). RARAQ representative to the Brisbane ANZAC Day March Committee and RARAQ representative, Queensland Training Information Program Committee.



*Ross Langford*

**Mr Robert Stanley Kearney, Adelaide.**

For service to military history preservation, and to the community. Service includes: Military Historian, ongoing. Author of a range of publications including: 'Silent Voices: The Story of the 10th Battalion AIF in Australia, Egypt, Gallipoli, France, and Belgium during the Great War 1914-1919'. 'Crossfire: The Australian Reconnaissance Unit in Vietnam'. Collaborator with St Peter's College on the Fallen Soldiers Research Project, since 2012. Author, 'Fallen Saints' - The story of 180 fallen soldiers and who attended St Peter's College before W+WI. Contributor to the Virtual Memorial Project, South Australian Branch, Returned Services League of Australia, since 2014. Founder, Trojans Trek, since 2009. Involved in the foundation and Member of, Operation Flinders Project, 1991-2001. Instructor, South Australian Country Fire Service, 2000-2014 and Volunteer, Brukunga Brigade.



**Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM):**

**Warrant Officer Class One Colin Francis Watego, NSW.**



For meritorious service to Indigenous Affairs in the Australian Defence Force Warrant Officer Class One Watego is a highly valued and dedicated Defence member, with professional standards of the highest order, who has worked tirelessly to promote Indigenous recruitment and retention in the Australian Defence Force through the development and conduct of the Australian Defence Force Indigenous Pre-Recruitment Course. Warrant Officer Class One Watego has been inspirational in his leadership, displaying selfless devotion to duty.



## FROM THE BATTALIONS

### 3 RAR SA

The Association has been busy as usual with a hard working committee leading the way.

In April we conducted a commemorative service for the 65th Anniversary for the Battle of Kapyong (23-25 April 1951) and C Company from the 2nd Tour of South Vietnam joined us on ANZAC Day from its Reunion base at Hahndorf.

This year our after ANZAC Day March lunch was at The Lord Melbourne Hotel.

In May we conducted grave side gatherings for SGT Peter Lewis (KIA 13 May 1968) and PTEs Alan Cooper and William Thomas (KIA 26 May 1968) at Centennial Park, and ran a quiz night.

In June we conducted the commemorative service for the Battle of Long Khanh (7 June 1971) and assisted in the re-internment service for WO2 Max Hanley MM.

Also in June some of our members attended the re-internment service for SGT Ron Carroll in Western Australia. After the service his family were presented with a medal case with replicas of his medals.

The current CO and RSM 3 RAR and a catafalque party from the Battalion attended both these services.

On Friday 7 October we will be conducting a commemorative service for the 65th Anniversary for the Battle of Maryang San (2-8 October 1951).

Later in October we will have another a quiz night.

In November we will be having our annual Christmas Party on Sunday November 20th which is the nearest Sunday to the Battalion's birthday on 23 November.

We will also be conducting a grave side gathering for LCPL Tony Quigley (KIA 5 November 1968) at Centennial Park on the 5th

We are producing association newsletters on a quarterly (or slightly more frequent) basis and have been in the process of revamping our website.

Fundraising sausage sizzles continue on roughly a monthly basis and this year we are trialling monthly lunches.

**Adrian Craig, 3 RAR SA representative**



### 9 RAR SA

The Association has been relatively quiet recently.

In July we conducted grave side gatherings for LCPL Rick Abraham at Whyalla on the 6th and for CPL Bruno Adamczyk at Centennial Park on the 12th Both men were from D Company.

Our two new banners will be produced very soon with one to be hung in the RAR SA Clubrooms.

Planning for the 50th Anniversary Reunion in Adelaide and surrounds during November 2017 continues.

**Adrian Craig, 9 RAR SA Representative**



### 5/7 RAR

#### The pig that lived with the tigers

In 1986 Delta Company 5/7 RAR were on exercise at Tully when they were given a wild boar piglet by the staff at the Battle School. The piglet was brought back to Tobruk Lines, Holsworthy, and presented to the battalion CO and RSM.

The piglet was immediately named "Willi", in honour of the last 7 RAR member in the battalion, Sgt Dave Willis.

With 5/7 RAR, already having the tiger mascot from 5 RAR, "Willi" quickly became the unofficial mascot, celebrating our 7 RAR link.

Willi was left to roam free around the battalion and was never kept caged, in fact the only time he was locked up was when he dined out on the roses outside 3 RAR BHQ, a crime for which he was put in the 3 RAR cells. However, roses not being part of his regular diet did not agree with Willi and he had the last laugh on the guard duty that night.

Willi was not popular at Kapyong Lines, with the RSM regularly threatening to have him for Sunday lunch in the Sgt's Mess.

Willi was very popular with the troops and would always swing by the lines and say "Gday" on his way to the OR's mess for dinner.

In 1998, due to ill health, sadly Willi had to be euthanised, his final ride was upon a lowered ramp of an Armoured Personnel Carrier.

His ashes were divided into two and placed in the officers' and sergeants' mess respectively.

Recently they have been transferred with one urn at 5 RAR and another at 7 RAR.

The 5/7 RAR Association's website is [www.57rar.com](http://www.57rar.com) where membership and merchandise is available online.

Chris Shannon

5/7 RAR Association Secretary,  
SA State Representative



#### Grave side gathering for Privates Alan Cooper and William Thomas sets new standard

On Thursday 26 May 2016 a combined grave side gathering was conducted at Privates Alan Cooper's and William Thomas's graves in the Derrick Gardens, Centennial Park, at 11am.

The service was an informal gathering of family members, friends and mates with a short introduction, the placing of small Australian National Flags, the reciting of the Ode, The sounding of the Last Post and a Minute's Silence and the Rouse, before moving to the Tonsley Hotel for lunch.

This method of remembering our war dead has been adopted to ease the stress on family members and veterans and will be used for all years except for the 5th or 10th year anniversaries when full commemorative services will be conducted.

**Adrian Craig**

The 5RAR Tigers in Adelaide were in strong numbers at the funeral of one of our favourite Diggers R K (Robert) Smith. R. K. Smith enlisted on the 7 February 1968 and went to Vietnam with the Second Tour in 1969. He was a rifleman/radio operator with B Coy 4 Platoon & served with distinction & was a well liked member of the platoon. R K & his wife Zandra attended many of our 5RAR lunches in Adelaide over the last many years. He will be sadly missed by his family & friends.



Mo Hancock

It is with sadness and shock I advise of the passing of 38808 Garry "Pepe" William Prendergast in the early hours of this morning in John Flynn Hospital on the Gold Coast. Pepe has been in hospital, but this was not an expected outcome. For many years Pepe has been a driving force behind the annual Coral Reunions and maintained an email network for 1 RAR 2nd Tour members. Naturally at this stage no details are available, I will advise as soon as they come to hand.

Ray Payne OAM  
Veteranweb Network  
raypayne@veteranweb.asn.au

The Veteranweb Network providing information to Australian veterans, ex-service and service personnel - reaching more than 12,400 readers daily and growing. All service and ex-service personnel can subscribe to the Veteranweb Network cost free. Information is provided via email from various reliable sources. Veteranweb is an information service. While it is not a forum you are welcome to contribute.

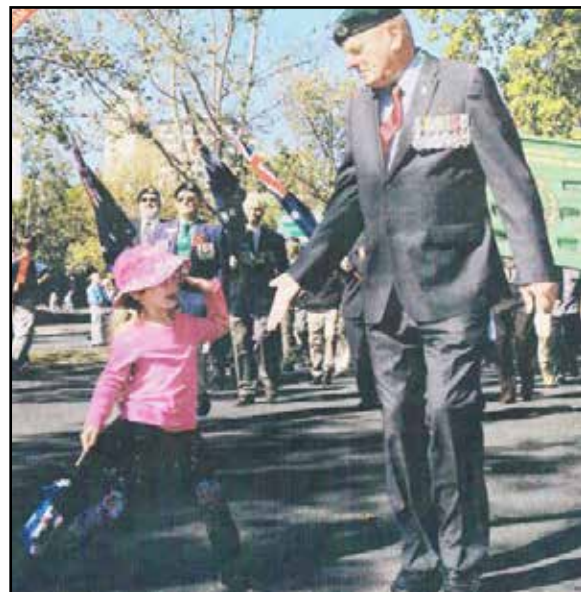
Greg Decker, Secretary  
RAR Association Queensland  
0417 464 251

## Repatriation service for T/WO2 Maxwell Powell Hamley MM

T/WO 2 Maxwell Powell Hanley MM was Killed in Action on 20 February 1967 in South Vietnam while a member of the AATTV. He was buried in the Terendak Cemetery Malaysia. His remains were repatriated to Australia on 2 June 2016 and a service was held for Max and his family at the Heysen Chapel, Centennial Park, on Thursday 9 June 2016 at 10.30am. He was buried in the Adelaide War Cemetery.



Max was born in Adelaide on 6 December 1935. He joined the Australian Army on 8 July 1955 and was posted to 3 RAR. He moved to Malaya with 3 RAR during its tour from 1957 to 1959. On 27 July 1958, while a member of the 3 RAR Assault Pioneer Platoon, Max lead a three-man ambush patrol which killed three CT (communist terrorists). The action became known as the Mangling Mill Ambush.



Major Ray Shillabeer, ex OC 3 Platoon A Company in Vietnam in 1971, leading the 3RAR group in the 2016 ANZAC Day march in Adelaide. The group was bolstered this year with the members of C Company 1971 tour and B Company 1967/8 tour both holding reunions in Adelaide. The young girl running out to meet her grandfather is Elise Wilson. Above Elise's head are Jeff Barrett, Bob Whelan and David White. The Australian flags shown are for three of the eight South Australians KIA during both tours. The rest are carried by members of C Company and B Company marching towards the rear of the main body.

Photo: The Advertiser.  
- Contributed by Peter Scott

For his actions Max was awarded the Military Medal. Later Max's corps transferred to Intelligence Corps and was posted to South Vietnam as a T/WO2 as part of the AATTV on 6 December 1966 and was Killed in Action on 20 February 1967.

The service of 9 June was open to the public. The involvement by 3 RAR SA and the RAR Association SA was very limited with Max's family inviting his friends to have the key roles.

After the service members and ex-members of the armed forces were invited to line the road to his burial site. Russell Campbell OAM was the organiser. A wake followed at the South Adelaide Football Club. As a mark of respect decorations and medals were worn.





# After 50 years, daughter receives father's medals

On Friday 8 April 2016 I was asked to make a particularly special presentation to Annmarie Tsismelis on behalf of the Royal Australian Regiment Association SA. Who is Annmarie Tsismelis, you ask? Annmarie is the daughter of 43893 Private Jim Houston (KIA Battle of Long Tan, 18 August 1966 – D Company 6 RAR). Our Patron, Brigadier Laurie Lewis AM, Rtd, asked me if a set of medals - AASM with Vietnam Clasp, Queen's Vietnam Medal, Defence Medal and Vietnam Star with '60' Clasp - could be acquired and court mounted for presentation to Annmarie. My medal supplier in Queensland, National Medals, graciously donated them to me.

With the court mounting of the medals, the Infantry Combat Badge (ICB) and the US Presidential Citation were attached to the medals to complete the set.

Inclusive of the medals for presentation was a small cardboard box, which has significance in that during our time in Vietnam we received our care packages from home packed with Vegemite, crackers, cake, etc. in the boxes. Also in the box to compliment the medals is an RAR hat badge, Australia shoulder title, RAR shoulder flash (red) for the battle dress uniform and a Long Tan dress pin. The box has a white padded satin lining on which the medals and artefacts rest. Fred Fairhead donated a signed copy



*Annmarie Tsismelis and her husband John proudly display the medals.*

of his book "A Duty Done".

After Annmarie and her husband, John, and Eddy and Jeanette Sloan arrived RARA SA Vice president Rod Graham VP called me forward to start the proceedings. In the presence of 35 members, wives, partners and guests, Annmarie was asked to come forward for the presentation. It was an emotive moment for her as it was the 50th year since the passing of her father Jim Houston at the Battle of Long Tan.

The significance of all the items and how to maintain and preserve them was explained to Annmarie, who, holding back tears and with a slight tremor in her voice, she thanked Laurie, the Royal Australian Regiment Association SA and me for the medals and the artefacts.

This year was of special importance to Annmarie as she was able to wear the medals at the ANZAC Day ceremonies.

I was assured by Annmarie that she would wear the medals with utmost pride and honour.

I thank Laurie Lewis, Carol Van Der Peet who took photos and the RARA SA for their important roles in making this a successful presentation to Annmarie. I acknowledge and thank the members, wives, partners and guests in attendance on this occasion. Also David White for assisting with the setting this article.

Ken Duthie JP

School Military History Officer, RARA SA

## A Regimental Reverie

**Brig Ron Boxall (ret'd) was the 2IC of D Coy, 5RAR on their first tour to Vietnam in 1966/67 and a dedicated and prominent member of the 5RAR Association. He went back to Vietnam as OC C Coy 4RAR on the last tour in 1971. Ron has a gift and skill with words so ably highlighted in his poem of the Royal Australian Regiment below.**

*In pockets of the mem'ry drifting from a dreamlike past  
Are long-outdated barracks where the fates of mates were cast;  
'Mid hazy, heartening shadows – sights and sounds of bygone throngs.  
We glimpse young sylphlike faces and hear soft their spoken songs.  
Schemes of teamwork, told by players well-suited to our game  
In a calm or fiercer cadence – both markers of our fame;  
Part-faded scenes, in which the musing mind sometimes delves,  
Of paths then bravely-trodden where we learned much of ourselves;  
Stealing, nudging gently, come reminders quite sublime.  
Embers of fiery days, and echoes from the vaults of Time.*

\* \* \*

*Yearning for our "roaring days", while again their depths we plumb,  
Let's take time to splurge on ponder and spurn the muffled drum!  
There is profit in recalling our days of long ago  
Reviewing inmost feelings that we rarely deign to show.  
Recollections paint mind pictures in hues both bright and sad,  
They indulge our self-awareness; but that can't be all bad;  
Long-familiar wraiths remind us of things that we had done  
In some days when life was rough, and yet others that were fun;  
We mourn mates who then passed – and bitter things that we had seen  
While nursing grateful notions of how lucky we had been.*

\* \* \*

*Among the vaunted ones, when wearing Skippy's badge of brass,  
Though few of the many, we were exemplars of our class!  
Justly proud, we're also humble; our mentors had gone before,  
Others came quickly behind us, and today there's ever more.  
The customs of our Regiment which stand the test of time  
Are remembered by we ancients, as though still in our prime;  
Reviving, spurring us onward, when things seem at their worst,  
That old call of comfort, its simple motto "Duty First",  
Grants that duty still is owed – by old men now "on the shelf" –  
To Country, Family, Comrades and, not least, to one's own Self.*

REB June 201

**This poem was written by Kerrie Johnston, wife of Norm Johnston, who was a member of 8 Platoon, C Company when 2Lt David Paterson was killed by enemy fire on 20 March 1971. C Company was holding a reunion in Adelaide during the ANZAC weekend. It was written after the commemorative service held for David at his grave side in Centennial Park Cemetery on Friday 22 April as the first event on the reunion program. About 50 members and David's family and friends attended the short service.**

*Today I stood amongst a field of men  
who once stood tall and strong.*

*Those who fought for you and me to  
learn what's right and wrong.*

*A father, brother, friend and son-has  
long since been laid to rest.*

*I see the sadness of his mates left to  
live the test.*

*In war there are no winners. War  
takes all that's good.*

*War leaves shattered lives and tears  
where one proud soldier stood.*

*So as they remember them-believe it  
when I say*

*Treat all with love and kindness  
especially on ANZAC Day.*

## Royal Australian Regiment Association Committee 2015-2016

Patron Laurie Lewis AM

### Elected Positions

President	Michael von Berg MC <a href="mailto:mvb@michaelvonberg.com">mvb@michaelvonberg.com</a>	0411 870 055
Vice President	Rod Graham <a href="mailto:rodg2@bigpond.com.au">rodg2@bigpond.com.au</a>	0427 977 145
Secretary	Jim Stopford <a href="mailto:jbstopford@bigpond.com">jbstopford@bigpond.com</a>	0400 191 801
Treasurer	Mike Bevan	0416 106 578
Webmaster	<a href="mailto:mikeb3@netspace.net.au">mikeb3@netspace.net.au</a>	
Membership	Carol Van Der Peet <a href="mailto:3RARSA@gmail.com">3RARSA@gmail.com</a>	0415 242 084

### Appointed Committee Positions

Manager - Club	Greg Dwiar <a href="mailto:gregdwiar@gmail.com">gregdwiar@gmail.com</a>	0412 644 749
Manager - Ceremonial	Adrian Craig <a href="mailto:as.craig9rar@bigpond.com">as.craig9rar@bigpond.com</a>	8263 4784
Welfare Officer	Vacant	

### Trojan's Trek

Director	Moose Dunlop OAM <a href="mailto:moose@trojanstrek.com">moose@trojanstrek.com</a>	0408 088 886
Schools Military History Officer	Ken Duthie	0418 806 172

### Voluntary Positions

Manager - Bar	Neil Nicholls <a href="mailto:neilnicholls1946@gmail.com">neilnicholls1946@gmail.com</a>	0488 050 810 8369 1957
Editor - Infantryman	Penelope Forster <a href="mailto:penelopeforster01@gmail.com">penelopeforster01@gmail.com</a>	8367 9905

### Battalion Representatives

1 RAR John Genovese	<a href="mailto:genovese@bigpond.net.au">genovese@bigpond.net.au</a>	8265 0524
2 RAR Malcolm Allen	<a href="mailto:mal@aladdco.com.au">mal@aladdco.com.au</a>	0451 374 133
2/4 RAR Kim Porter	<a href="mailto:yrtnafni51@gmail.com">yrtnafni51@gmail.com</a>	0417 468186
3 RAR Robert Whelan	<a href="mailto:wheelsdenise@internode.on.net">wheelsdenise@internode.on.net</a>	8387 9979
4 RAR Rod Harris	<a href="mailto:sirrah@lm.net.au">sirrah@lm.net.au</a>	0448 726 088
5 RAR Mos Hancock	<a href="mailto:moswhan@bigpond.net.au">moswhan@bigpond.net.au</a>	8556 2732
5/7 RAR Chris Shannon	<a href="mailto:thinktank2002@hotmail.com">thinktank2002@hotmail.com</a>	0414 797 250
6 RAR	<b>Vacant</b>	
7 RAR Robert Whinnen	<a href="mailto:rlwhinnen@bigpon.com.au">rlwhinnen@bigpon.com.au</a>	0413 198 558
8 RAR Ted Forward	<a href="mailto:adriane.ted.forward@bigpond.com">adriane.ted.forward@bigpond.com</a>	82351 625
9 RAR Adrian Craig	<a href="mailto:as.craig9rar@bigpond.com">as.craig9rar@bigpond.com</a>	8263 4784

### RAR (SA) RSL Sub-Branch

President	Rod Graham	0427 977 145
Secretary	Greg Dwiar	0412 644 749
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](http://www.rarasa.org.au)

Email: [rar01@internode.on.net](mailto:rar01@internode.on.net)

## FRIDAY NIGHT BAR ROSTER JULY - DEC

		MEAL	BAR
<b>JULY</b>	1	Light Meal	Spike
-	8	Ladies night, 3 Course Menu	Bob W
-	15	Light Meal	Kara
	22	Light Meal	Adrian
	29	Chef's Choice, 2 Course Menu	Chris
<b>AUG</b>	5	Light Meal	Neil
	12	Ladies night, 3 Course Menu	Bob W
	19	Light Meal	Wheels
	26	Chef's Choice, 2 Course Menu	Spike
<b>SEPT</b>	2	Light Meal	Kara
	9	Ladies night, 3 Course Menu	Bob W
	16	Light meal	Adrian
	23	Light meal	Chris
	30	Chef's Choice, 2 Course Menu	Neil
<b>OCT</b>	7	Light Meal	Wheels
	14	Ladies night, 3 Course Menu	Bob W
	21	Light meal	Spike
	28	Chef's Choice, 2 Course Menu	Kara
<b>NOV</b>	5	Light Meal	Adrian
	12	Ladies night, 3 Course Menu	Bob W
	19	Light Meal	Chris
	26	RAR Xmas Drinks	Neil
<b>DEC</b>	3	Light Meal	Wheels
	10	Light Meal	Neil
	17	RAR XMAS DINNER	Bob W
	24	<b>XMAS EVE CLUB CLOSED</b>	<b>closed</b>
<b>JAN</b>	14	Club reopens 2017	TBA

## Changes to DVA phone system

DVA has moved to a new telephone system. If you need crisis counselling please call the Counselling Service (VVCS) on 1800 011 046. This number is for counselling only on a 24 hour basis

If you need to use Booked Car With Driver transport to go to a health provider and cannot get through to a DVA officer on the telephone – please order and pay for your own taxi: you can then seek reimbursement from DVA later. Or, if you are signed up to MyAccount, you can book transport and travel expenses online.

If you are unwell please contact your local doctor or go to your nearest hospital.

If you would like DVA to call you, please use the Client call back service online form.

Alternatively, you can contact the department by email at [GeneralEnquiries@dva.gov.au](mailto:GeneralEnquiries@dva.gov.au).

If you need to make a claim, a form can be found on the DSH website.