



INFANTRYMAN

The Journal of the RAR Association SA
Keeping the Spirit Alive

April 2017



3 RAR GROUP & VETERANS VISIT KOREA: From Major Simon Hawkins, Assistant Defence Attaché to Australian Embassy in Seoul: "The trek up the hill with the 3 RAR boys and Korean Army team was also a great experience. We were able to see a good number of the A Company and C Company positions. The guys really enjoyed it. We then played sport with the local Korean Army Recon Unit and stayed overnight on their base before doing some infantry minor tactics training with them the next day. A very worthwhile experience. Here is a photo of the team up on the hill at Gapyeong". Major Hawkins is in the front row on the left of the unit sign. More page 9.

‘Falling through the Cracks’– A Proposal to Prevent it

The RARA has been involved in many discussions on various committees through the Prime Minister's Advisory Council (PMAC), the Ex-Service Organisations Round table (ESORT), DVA's other consultative forums, State Veterans' Advisory Councils, with other ESOs through the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO) and with the serving ADF, in particular serving members of the RAR, about the current separation/transition process and its problems and complexities.

The individual who discharges on medical grounds and who is already a DVA client is by all reports well catered for in most instances, but not all, due to the complexities and frustrations at times in the various pieces of legislation and processes individuals are subjected to.

Continued page 2

The proposal is that everyone separating from the ADF is either:

- (1) provided with a white/silver DVA card which covers all non-liability mental health issues and substance abuse or**
- (2) issued with a normal Medicare Card (which everyone is going to need anyway) with a clear identifier on that card that the individual is an ex-member of the ADF. With that card an individual can at any time, free of charge, present themselves to a GP or a psychologist direct to discuss their respective issue(s) and seek treatment.**

'Falling through the Cracks'– The Proposal to Prevent it

Continued from page 1

But this proposal is not about them: it's about "the gap" or, as some would describe it, "the chasm" which exists after separating from the ADF. This affects in some cases individuals who are already DVA clients and many more who are not already, but yet potential clients.

This "chasm" is where individuals who separate from the ADF for non-medical reasons (end of career, end of current engagement contract, etc) seem to fall off the military radar and become "lost" when in later years health care is needed.



We need an "over the horizon radar" system to be able to keep track of them in cases when they "hit the wall" in five, 10 or 15 years and experience difficulties and need help.

There is sufficient evidence to support the need for a tracking system to support Australia's duty of care to its veterans.

DVA is currently reshaping its culture, policies and internal processes to be "client centric" and efficient.

This is a welcome initiative which the RAR Association and other ESOs have been advocating for many years: that the Government must adopt a "whole of life" care philosophy for everyone who has served in the ADF in

"Falling through the Cracks" is a Royal Australian Regiment Association (RARA) proposal to help prevent it. Have your say about it.

any capacity, whether deploying operationally or not, which also must include our Reservists.

To be able to keep track of anyone who has served and who may experience difficulties after separation, the RAR Association has a proposal that is being put to Government which we believe will alleviate people "falling through the cracks" and will ensure that "whole of life" care protection and support is applied.

This through normal medical processes would ensure that all personal particulars and contact details are up to date, ensuring that DVA and other support agencies are aware where the individual is to be able to support in any way required.

It is not a "Big Brother" type surveillance that gets up the nose of a few people; it's more a "St Vincent" to assist people who may be suffering homelessness, substance abuse and considering self-harm, or through an unfortunate incident finds them incarcerated. It's to be considered a "leg up" but we the ESO community and DVA and other agencies can't help if we don't know where they are.

That's the proposal. Its cost is minimal but its benefits for the individual and support mechanisms and first responders are enormous.

Michael von Berg MC OAM

Delete 'D' from PTSD to make inroads to remove stigma

This article written by Rob Manton (pictured), Director of Veterans SA, was published in The Advertiser on Saturday 11 March 2017.

LAST Sunday (March 5), Australia lost another ex-serviceman to suicide. A former soldier who had served in Afghanistan before joining the South Australian Police took his own life at Cowell, near Port Lincoln.

It is not yet clear why he took his life or whether signs were missed that, if noticed, may have averted this tragedy. Once again a valued servant of the community is no longer with us.

Not long after I assumed my role as Director, Veterans SA, I was invited to address an Adelaide Legacy lunch to outline my priorities and vision for the agency and to touch on issues of concern to me for the South Australian veteran community.

One of the issues I highlighted related to the perceived stigma associated with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and my desire to start a campaign to remove the 'D' from the acronym.

Post-traumatic stress is the most common and familiar term for mental illness faced by service men and women, past and present.

It has been termed an invisible wound, as old as war itself, and has undergone a metamorphosis since it was first defined as 'shell shock' in World War I and 'Battle Fatigue' or 'Combat Stress Reaction' in World War II.

A member of the audience suggested that the 'D' was a requirement for compensatory purposes.

The dictionary defines 'disorder' as "...a derangement of physical or mental health or functions..."

It further defines 'derange' as, amongst other definitions,

to "make insane". It implies permanency.

My view is that post-traumatic stress is a condition not a disorder. I believe our number one priority should be treatment not compensation.

In so doing, we will make in-roads to remove the stigma, encourage those suffering to seek assistance and possibly treatment, and to start a conversation about this condition to remove any perceived or actual bias towards those so diagnosed.

It's time we changed the narrative on this issue. Society has changed – for the better. We now embrace our mentally ill. We no longer lock them away in asylums. We have accepted, particularly for serving and ex-serving personnel, that we owe the same debt to those with mental health challenges as we do to those with obvious physical injuries.

Employers would not hesitate to hire an employee being treated for a medical condition like diabetes or high blood pressure, and they should not hesitate to hire veterans with post-traumatic stress.

Our service personnel are the 0.24 per cent of the population that keeps the other 99.76 per cent safe. If for no other reason than this, let's drop the D.

If it requires legislative change, then we should make that happen, such that the removal of the word 'disorder' does not impact compensation.

But, our first order of business must be to promote recovery at every turn.

We may not be able to change the medical terminology but we should try and change the perception in society and amongst employers.



FROM THE COMMAND POST

Near-future sale of clubrooms averted

I have been holding off in advising our membership in regard to a resolution of the board of the RSL (SA) to sell the building and land at 13 Beatty Street, for no other reason except at this time I am hopeful this can still be averted.

I thought it prudent most importantly to express my disappointment and concerns and how this has come about.

The RARA SA, through the generosity of the RSL, some years ago signed a 15-year renewable lease on a pepper corn rental which helped us to more strongly profile the Association in South Australia.

Unlike so many of the RSL poker machine dens in other states, our club rooms, like so many other RSL Sub Branches, is the operating headquarters of our Association where many non-paid volunteers do a tremendous amount of work in the interests of all veterans, not just ex-members of the RAR.

Everyone coming to our club rooms is very impressed in the aesthetics and ambience of the club where an enormous amount of money and labour has been devoted in making our club something quite special, which includes the donations or memorabilia of members and gifts from members of the Government.

We have some 450 members in our Association, which does not include the individual membership or our 12 Battalion Associations which are our corporate constitutional members (shareholders) and our many associate and honorary members.

Not only do we provide a home for the Regiment but a home for Trojan's Trek, the RAR Schools Military History Unit, and the facility often used by our serving Battalion 7RAR and confirmed by current and previous Commanding Officers.

The rooms are also used for men's physical exercise groups, women's yoga classes, karate classes, ballroom dancing and many Battalion Associations use the facility for their committee meetings and functions.

There are also wine and beer tasting evenings, ethnically themed dinner evenings embracing our multicultural membership and an annual Regimental Formal Dinner. We also store considerable equipment, two motor vehicles and a trailer.

Why, I hear you ask, is the RSL doing this to a vibrant and well managed ex-service organisation which you would think the RSL is morally obliged to support?

In accounting speak it is "financial matters" - they need

the money. This is not rumor or supposition; it's what officially I have been told and also evident through their balance sheet.

The RSL sees our club rooms as low hanging fruit and easy pickings. The other question that I hear is: What about the lease? Yes, we had a lease for 15 years renewable every five years but

unfortunately the next renewal was not taken up due to a key member passing away and the RSL Treasurer responsible retiring, so the renewal fell through the cracks and certainly we had no notification from the RSL.

The RSL has tried to find us other accommodation but this is proving very difficult. There is nothing of the standard and size we require and, most importantly, we would purely be a guest in any other RSL without any assurance of tenure. There could also be cultural differences not compatible with our own.

Laurie Lewis and I have had meetings with Tim Hanna, President of the RSL (SA), and, although the RSL is attempting to re-engineer its finances, we can't be confident of that outcome nor of our future. So we have no other option than to seek moral support from elsewhere and to that end that has already started.

You have often heard me say that our club rooms are our Regiments' "spiritual home" in South Australia. What infuriates me is the scoffing by an RSL Board member that our club rooms are only a "tin shed".

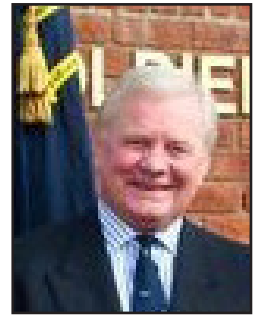
I would remind this individual that capital structure doesn't make a "spiritual home". It's the comradeship, altruism, volunteer spirit of wanting to help one another, Regimental pride and a sense of belonging, which is so important in the mental health space and the development of peer to peer support networks.

We will keep you posted but, for the reasons given above and the many that will be affected by what is being forced upon us, we will not be going anywhere without a fight.

If we lose we will legally ensure that the terms and conditions of the RSL's own Constitution are adhered to with the proceeds of any sale going back into our region and not internal revenue or working capital of the RSL.

I have never been happy in funding losses!

Michael von Berg MC OAM
President



Over the last 12 years the clubrooms have been the meeting place for numerous events and ceremonies. On 12 March 2010 Mark Donaldson VC visited the clubrooms to sign John Kendal's promotional ute.

Veterans Mental Health Precinct at Glenside - Construction underway

RARA SA President Michael von Berg MC OAM received the following letter late last year in relation to the development of the Parkside site as the new Veterans' Mental Health Precinct from Lynne Cowan Chair, Veterans' Mental Health Precinct Oversight Panel Acting Deputy Chief Executive - Transforming Health.



A section of the construction site photographed on 19 February 2017.

Lynne Cowan is pictured on the noticeboard.

I am pleased to advise that construction of the new \$15 million Veterans' Mental Health Precinct, named The James Larcombe Centre, has started at Glenside Health Service Campus.

Schiavello Construction SA has been engaged to build the new facility, which will incorporate the existing Immediate Care Centre building.

The new facility will be purpose built and will include an ambulatory service incorporating outpatients treatment and a Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) service, 24 single rooms with en suites, and a gymnasium, research spaces, gardens and a children's playground families.

The precinct will also include a Partnerships Hub, located in the heritage building adjacent to the new facility. The Hub will be "one stop shop"; a place where Veterans, emergency services personnel who are experiencing PTSD, and their families can access information and services to support their individual needs.

The Hub will enable Ex-Service Organisations to collaborate and share expertise to further meet the needs of Veterans. More information about how your organisation can participate in the Hub will be provided closer to completion of the precinct.

More Veterans Advisory Council input needed

Most of you would know that both Laurie Lewis and I are on the State VAC. This State Government appointed Council addresses many veterans' issues and from our experience has been very effective but we believe it could be more effective if we had more input from members of our Association in areas that you believe are not addressed or have simply not been brought to our attention. Please don't hesitate to raise issues with us in the first instance so that we are able to consider its merits and table it in some form if agreed. Contact us by email or phone if you have anything to discuss. - Michael von Berg MC OAM

The precinct has been named "The James Larcombe Centre" after Sapper Jamie Ronald Larcombe (pictured), who was born in Kingcote, Kangaroo Island, and was deployed to Afghanistan in 2010. The name is a tribute to the service and sacrifice of Sapper Larcombe, who was killed in action on 19 February 2011.

The name was chosen after an extensive consultation process, lead by the Veterans' Advisory Council, in which the Veteran community provided feedback on a range of proposed names for the precinct. "The Jamie Larcombe Centre" refers to the precinct as a whole. The remaining areas within the facility will be the known by their functional names: Inpatient Ward, Outpatient Ward, Memorial Garden, and Hub.



Construction of the precinct is expected to be completed by the late 2017.

More information about the new precinct is available at www.transforminghealth.sa.gov.au

**Yours sincerely
Lynne Cowan**

**Chair, Veterans' Mental Health
Precinct Oversight Panel**

Acting Deputy Chief Executive - Transforming Health



Artist's impression of a section of the new facility



A section of the construction site photographed on 19 February 2017.

Social and event coordinator sought

We are seeking a creative and dynamic social and event coordinator to make a valuable contribution to the club and its members in developing and running social events and other forms of entertainment for our members and families. We have wonderful clubrooms, a well-stocked bar and a compact commercial kitchen which is a there for all to use and in particular our Battalion Associations. This appointment would be an important part of our executive committee where all suggestions and ideas will be seriously considered.

Those interested are asked to please contact Greg (Spike) Dwiar or if he is unavailable any other committee member.

CEREMONIAL

Major Commemorative Services for the year



The RAR Association SA and battalion associations have conducted or will be conducting the following major commemorative services in 2017:

Sunday 19 February – RAR Assoc. SA Combined Regiments Hat Dich – Linden Park.

Tuesday 28 February – 8 RAR SA Long Hai – The Pathway of Honour.

Monday 24 April – 3 RAR SA Kapyong – Linden Park..

Wednesday 7 June – 3 RAR SA - Linden Park.

Sunday 6 August – 7 RAR SA Suoi Cha Pha. Venue to be advised.

Friday 18 August – RAR Assoc. SA Long Tan - Linden Park.

Friday 6 October – 3 RAR SA Maryang San - Linden Park.

ANZAC DAY 2017

This year there has been some delay in the planning for ANZAC Day - in the main because of liaison regarding the tramline extensions along North Terrace to East

Terrace and down King William Street to near the Festival Theatre.

Liaison by the ANZAC Day Committee has established that there should be no disruption to the March with the engineering

works being programmed around the March.

What is known at this stage is:

The Assembly Area for our group (RAR and ASASR) will be on the eastern side of Pultney Street between North Terrace and Rundle Street.

We will be marching as a group of battalion associations with the ASASR and the Order of March of:

President's Party: 1 RAR, 2 RAR, 3 RAR including D Company from first tour of Vietnam, and 4 RAR.

Vehicles for disabled veterans.

5 RAR, 6 RAR, 7 RAR, 8 RAR, 9 RAR, 2/4 RAR, 5/7 RAR, 8/9 RAR and ASASR.

The RAR Association SA van or vans will be available to take banners and flags to and from the March and be used by disabled veterans during the March.

Dress should be decorations and medals with neat attire. Headdress should be removed at each saluting point.

Family members of veterans should march in the Descendants Group towards the rear of the March.

The post March function for the RAR Association will be at The Lion Hotel, Melbourne Street, North Adelaide.

Other details of the March such as timings and dispersal area will be advised to battalion association as they become available. They will also be posted on our website.

Adrian Craig: Ceremonial

Murray Bridge RSL joins in Commemorative Service for Private Reginald Arthur Phillips - died of wounds 18 January 1969

Private Reginald Arthur Phillips was a National Service soldier in 3 Platoon, A Company 9 RAR and was one of my soldiers.

Reg was a rifleman in 8 Section and in the early hours of the afternoon of 18 January 1969 he was very badly wounded in a contact in the Hat Dich Secret Zone, Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam.

After the contact was finished and the area secured Reg was aero medevac-ed to the 1st Australian Field Hospital, Vung Tau where he was operated on for some hours but succumbed to his wounds late in the evening.

At that time the RSL in Australia was not overly supportive of Vietnam War servicemen and women and war dead and this had continued in some parts of Australia.

This year at fairly short notice we invited the Murray Bridge RSL to attend Reg's annual graveside gathering and the President Mervyn Schopp and Vice President David Laing plus one other member attended. A reporter from the local newspaper was present and produced articles for his newspaper.

After the service the Murray Bridge RSL was presented with a 9 RAR plaque which will be hung in the Phillips Rivett Hall in the Murray Bridge RSL.

Also after the service Mervyn joined us at the Bridgeport Hotel for lunch and met members of Reg's family, sisters Jan and Helen and Reg's fiancé Gwenda.

Our plan for next year is for the Murray Bridge RSL to play an active part in the service and recite the Ode as we do at Ardrossan for Private Bruce Plane's (KIA 20 January 1969) where President Kevin Kavanagh has been doing so for a number of years.

In my role as the RAR Ceremonial Officer I will be arranging for a 2 RAR plaque to be presented to the Murray Bridge RSL on behalf of Private Jeff Rivett of 2 RAR who was Killed In Action on 27 November 1967.

**Adrian Craig, Platoon Commander
3 Platoon A Company 9 RAR 1968-1969**



Above:
Adrian Craig
& Mervyn
Schopp 18
January 2017.



Reg Phillips, 2nd Recruit
Training Battalion



Right: Reg
Phillips commemorative
service 18
January 2017.

Visit to Korea to commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the Battles of Kapyong and Maryang San by Colonel Peter Scott, DSO, (Rtd)

I refer to pages 18-20 of the November edition of *Infantryman* and can now report on the actual visit by the mission to OP Tai Poong and the commemorative service held there.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs has since provided me with a copy of all the official photographs taken during the visit and I now wish to share some of those taken at OP Tai Poong where a memorial service was held on 26th October 2016. The one below shows the catafalque party mounted at the Maryang San Memorial.



Luckily the weather was fairly clear and Hill 317 or Maryang San could be seen in the distance about four kilometres to the North in North Korean territory. Immediately below the OP was a line of trenches and barbed wire and then well below the Imjin River which looped to the North where the Anti-Tank Platoon and several tanks from the 8th Kings Royal Irish Hussars under Captain Arthur Rofe crossed on the afternoon of 5 October 1951.

Maryang San was easily identifiable as was Hill 355 or Little Gibraltar but the hills leading to Maryang San was too difficult to separate because the whole ground melded into one.

During the service I gave the following short reading:

"I have a very heavy heart today because I want to deliver this message in memory of the 20 KIA and 100 WIA during the Battle of Maryang San.

Included in this dedication are two officers who were heroes during the Battle and have died in the past few months. They are Jim Hughes OC 4 platoon B Company on the Hinge who went on to command 4RAR in Vietnam in 1971 and retired as a Major General and Jim Stewart 2IC Signals platoon who retired as a Colonel. Both these officers were awarded a Military Cross for their bravery and leadership under extreme enemy fire.

On the night of 7 October, after securing the Hinge, Australian troops endured the worst artillery bombardment they had yet experienced in Korea and braced for counter-attacks. As a veteran of Maryang San I believe the description given by Jim Hughes eloquently expresses the experience of B Company that night. Hughes recalled:"

At Stand To and during the early part of the night it was quiet, almost too quiet – an ominous quiet. At 2000 hr the Chinese artillery and mortars opened up and continued for some 45 minutes. Suddenly the barrage of fire ceased and the Chinese attacked. All around the Company – like a battle cry – leaders at all levels were shouting, "Watch your front". We might have been shaken but we were very ready for the enemy.

During that night the Chinese attacked three times on our front and both flanks. We were very ably supported by our artillery; mortars and MMGs. Defensive fire tasks were frequently fired and walked in towards our perimeter.

The enemy was tenacious and crawled within feet of our trenches to throw stick grenades which were very quickly thrown back. Grenades were the only answer to those who got so close as they were able to get under the fire of our LMGs [Light Machine Guns] because of the lie of the land. That said, I am convinced that our LMGs saved us with their effective fire. Our LMG gunners learnt to fire a burst and then duck for cover as the Chinese attempted to knock them out. Some penetration of our position did occur but those who got in were quickly evicted.

Ammunition problems beset the Company and the Assault Pioneer Platoon [McCormick] made a further delivery to B Company. Resupply was a risky business in all that shelling and we were grateful to all those who undertook the task. In the early hours of 8 October ammunition was again a problem and we shared out Mk 8 Z link ammunition from a knocked out Medium Machine Gun. This ammunition initially worked but made a mess of our rifles. In all, the Company went through four lines of ammunition on The Hinge.

Jim Hughes was awarded the Military Cross for "outstanding leadership and gallantry in Korea [on] 7 October 1951." In my opinion Hughes epitomised the bravery and leadership of all platoon commanders in this battle.



The photo is of me giving a short address during the service.

The various photographs of the Korea Mission were taken by Peter Scott and a photographer from the Department of Veterans Affairs

Visit to Korea to commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the Battles of Kapyong and Maryang San

This service was outstanding as it overlooked North Korea with Maryang San in the middle distance. Photographs of the north were not permitted but there were photographs of the Veteran Group with North Korea in the background.



Members of the Mission Party moving towards Maryang San service area. North Korea clearly in the background.

L to R: Les Hall (1RAR), Sgt James Hughes (2IC Federation Guard), Jack Lang (3RAR) on arm of Cpl Kirby Graham, (RAAF, Federation Guard) and RAN member of the Federation Guard obscured.

The service was conducted with the attendance of the Commander of all Forces in Korea, General Brooks and many other senior US Army and ROK officers as this photograph shows.



The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Dan Tehan, MP, addressing the veterans and guests.



Looking across to North Korea are (from left): Captain Philip Weir, Commander Federation Guard, partially obscured, John Murphy and Jack Lang, both ex 3RAR, and Lance Corporal Sean Mageean, Federation Guard. Squadron Leader Christopher Gilbert, RAAF, and Mission Doctor facing rear.



Gen Brooks fourth from left then L to R: Maj Gen Simon Stuart, DSM, AM, ADF; ROK MG, Peter Scott; ROK MG and Maj Gen Mark Kelly, AO, DSC, Mission Director taken after the service.



From left: General Brooks, US Army Commander in Korea; Mr Ravi Kewalram, Charge d'Affairs Australian Embassy to the Republic of Korea; and The Hon Dan Tehan, MP Minister for Veterans' Affairs.



L to R: ROK MG, Graham Connor (1RAR), Jack Lang (3RAR), John Murphy (3RAR Kapyong and Maryang San), Gordon (Taffie) Hughes, DSM (RAN, 817 Sqn aboard HMAS Sydney), Gen Brooks, Commander US Forces in Korea, Peter Scott, DSO (3RAR Maryang San), Les Powell (3RAR), Ray Seaver (77 Sqn RAAF), Les Hall (1RAR) and Maj Gen Mark Kelly, AO DSC (Mission Director), with North Korea in background.

Commemorative Service at Kapyong 27 October 2016

By Colonel Peter Scott DSO

Members of the mission to Korea to Commemorate the Battles of Kapyong (now Gapyeong) and Maryang San gathered at the Australian Memorial at Gapyeong on the morning of October 27 to participate in a Remembrance Service.

One of the members of the mission served in 3RAR during the both Battles of Kapyong and Maryang San. He was 5/400089 Pte **John M Murphy** (right). John was born in Tipperary, Ireland and served as a NCO in the Irish Army before emigrating to Australia and joining the Australian Army to serve in Korea as a member of 'K' Force. John gave the Reading during the service.



Ms **Gai Brodtmann** MP Shadow Assistant Minister for Cyber Security and Defence Personnel then followed with her Reflections.



Wreaths were laid by many attending the service including The Minister The Hon Dan Tehan MP, Ms Gai Brodtmann, Squadron Leader Kate Breach from New Zealand and Director of Gapyeong County Mr Yoon SeYeol from the Republic of Korea New Zealand and Director of Gapyeong County Mr Yoon SeYeol from the Republic of Korea. I recited the Ode of Remembrance while a Reflection was given by Lt **Jason Richardson** (above right) of 3RAR.



Music was provided by a five-piece ensemble (below) from the US 8th Army Band, Last Post and Rouse was played Able Seaman Mathew Tubman RAN and Prayers and Blessing by Principle Chaplain Stuart Hall RAN Director-General Chaplaincy - Royal Australian Navy.



Catafalque Party of the Australian Federal Guard mounting at the Australian Memorial.



The group who are serving or have served in 3RAR standing in front of the Australian Memorial after the service. Veterans are L to R: John Murphy, John (Jack) Lang, Les Powell and Peter Scott.

The service was conducted in a beautiful amphitheatre with the Australian Memorial at the head of the commemorative area with a pathway bordered by low manicured scrubs leading to the New Zealand Memorial.

The service was conducted by Captain Vaughn Rixon CSC RAN, Australian Defence Attaché, Seoul. The Catafalque Party was provided by Australia's Federation Guard and the Prologue was given by newly promoted Major General Simon Stuart DSC AM Senior Australian Defence Force Representative who is now serving in the Sinai.



The Commemorative address was given by The Hon **Dan Tehan** MP (above), Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Minister for Defence Personnel, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Cyber Security and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC.

3RAR group visit Korea with veterans

A 3RAR Group with Korean Veteran Colonel Peter Scott DSO visited Lt Col Charlie Green's grave (CO 3RAR, KIA on 1 November 1950, awarded DSO in WW2) on 23 October 2016 during a visit to the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea but located in Busan (Pusan during the Korean War).

The group, which accompanied the Veterans of the Korean War who were part of the mission to Korea to Commemorate the 65th Anniversaries of The Battles of Kapyong and Maryang San, is pictured above (from left) are Dylan Gallen, Tristan Kennedy, Mitchell Higgins, Lachlan Mitchell, Daniel Szabo, Peter Scott, Lt Jason Richardson, (OC Party), Mathew Vermey, Adam McNaughton and Hayden Pownall.

After attending the memorial service at the Australian Memorial, Kapyong (now Gapyeong) on October 27 the group was lead by Major Simon Hawkins, Assistant

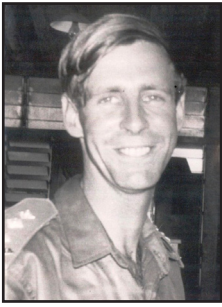


Defence Attaché, Seoul, to view the company positions occupied by 3RAR during the battle.

The group members were outstanding representatives of the battalion and the Australian Defence Force and both they and the Veterans became good friends. Their last act at Kapyong was to present the four Veterans of 3RAR with a slouch hat with the 3RAR insignia. Mine was a bit small but the gesture by those concerned was very much appreciated. - Peter Scott



A general view of the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea (UNMCK) located in Busan (Pusan during the Korean War). The majority of Australian casualties in Korea are buried in this very peaceful environment. The cemetery was visited by members of the mission to attend the United Nations Day Service on 24 October 2016; the unveiling ceremony of the Kapyong Quilt; and the Missing in Action and Australian memorials.



Old Guildfordians who served in the Vietnam War

From Fred Fairhead

(Left at Nui Dat 2 January 1970)

There is a School in Perth, WA which, may have the dubious honour of having the most number of ex students to serve in the Vietnam War. Guildford Grammar School was established on the banks of the Swan River in 1896 and until the 1970s was essentially a boarding school with four Boarding Houses, each of about 100 boys (mostly from the country) and one Day House of about 150 boys. Today it is mainly a day school and commencing in 2018 will become co-educational. The Preparatory School has been co-ed for many years.

During the Vietnam War 73 Old Guildfordians served in the three Services: 14 in the RAN, 53 in the Army and 6 in the RAAF. Seven of these men were Commanding Officers, ie: Lt Col George Brathwaite* (SASR), Lt Col John Church* (2RAR/NZ), Wing Commander John Downing (2 Squadron RAAF whose Canberra Bomber was shot down over the DMZ in March 1971), Group Captain John Hubble* (RAAF Contingent Vung Tau), Maj Jack L'Epagniol (Divisional Intelligence Unit Nui Dat), Sqn Ldr Chris Sugden* (Caribou Flight 1964/65) and Lt Col Terry Tripp* (AATTV 1967/68).

Of the 53 who served in the Army, twenty one served in RAR Battalions and one in 1SAS Sqn (Pte Gordon Herbert*). The men who served in The Regiment were:

- 1RAR (3). **Sgt Colin Evans*** (A/OC Assault Pioneer Platoon 1965/66, awarded a US Silver Star), **Cpl Roy Harris** (Armourer 1968/69 who also served as a Sgt Armourer with 2SAS Sqn in 1971) and **Maj Alec Piper** (Apr/May 1966);
- 2RAR (3). **Lt Col John Church*** (1970/71, WIA, Awarded DSO), **Pte Angus Richardson** (3 Section, 4 Platoon Machine Gunner 1967/68, WIA on Operation Coburg 31 Jan 68), **Pte Ric Wallis** (Mortar Platoon 1970/71).
- 3RAR (2). **Pte Ned Dixon** (2 Platoon Forward Scout 1968, then the 1ATF D&E Platoon 1968/69) and **Pte Ralph Klem** (12 Platoon Forward Scout 1971).
- 4RAR (1). **Pte Gerry Loveridge** (11 Platoon Rifleman/Machine Gun Group 1968/69).
- 5RAR (4). **Cpl John Burrige** (11 Platoon Machine Gunner/ Section Commander, 1969/70, WIA (twice), awarded Medal of Gallantry), **Pte Gordon Gillam** (Mortar Platoon 1969/70), **2Lt Melford (Finny) Roe** (Platoon Commander in D Company 1966/67 and later joined the ARA, serving in SASR, 2/4RAR and 5/7RAR) and **Pte Max Stephenson** (3 Platoon Rifleman/Medic, WIA 21 August 1969).
- 6RAR (5). **Pte David Abé** (Signals Platoon Linesman 1966/67), **Capt Fred Fairhead**, pictured top, (Intelligence Officer and Acting Company Commander 1969/70, awarded a Commander AFV Commendation), **LCpl Ian Izatt*** (Assault Pioneer Platoon 1969), **Pte Angus Richardson** (Reinforcement for 4 Platoon after Bribie until

May 67 and then to 2RAR) and **Pte Kim Thomas** (1 Platoon Signaller, WIA, re-enlisted in the ARA and served in SASR as a Sgt).

- 7RAR (3). **Maj Ken Bladen** (OC Support Company 1967, also served in SAS Company RAR, 1RAR and Adjutant 2RAR in Malaya), **LCpl David Bryant** (1 Platoon Forward Scout 1967/68, including at the Battle of Suoi Cha Pha after which he became a Section Commander) and **Capt Brian Hicks** (2iC Admin Company 1970/71).
- 8RAR (3). **Pte Gordon Gillam** (2 Platoon Signaller 1970 after transferring from 5RAR), **Pte Wayne Maschette** (CO's Signaller 1969/70) and **Pte Ric Wallis** (Mortar Platoon 1970 before transferring to 2RAR).
- 9RAR (0).

* = Deceased; ◊ = National Serviceman

Is there another School out there that can match this level of service? Please let the Infantryman know if there is.



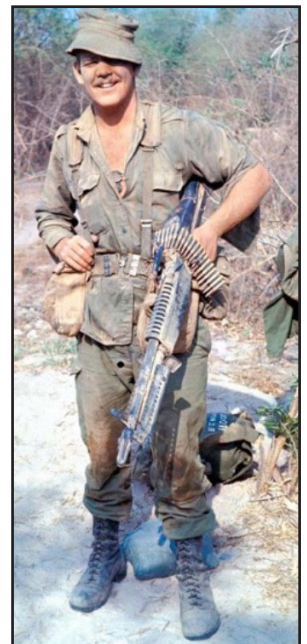
Ralph Klem, Boondocks, May 1971



Wayne Maschette, Nui Dat, December 1969



Melford Roe, Hoa Long, January 1967



Blue Burrige, Boondocks, April 1969

173rd Airborne Brigade Memorial remembers 1RAR and 5RAR fallen



By Centurion



At the US Army National Infantry Museum in Columbus, Georgia, there is a Memorial to the “Sky Soldiers” of the 173rd Airborne Brigade who fell in the Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts and in any future conflicts.

It is built on a circle with the Brigade’s symbol, the “Wing and Bayonet”, dramatically rising toward the sky in the centre. The Memorial platform is divided into radial segments of alternating colours to represent the panels of a parachute. The Memorial features five separate vertical walls each with panels of black granite engraved with the names of the fallen, Brigade history etc.

One such panel, headed “[Our Fallen Brothers from Down Under](#)” has the names of the twenty three men from 1RAR killed when the Battalion was under command of the 173rd in 1965/1966.

It also has the four 5RAR men killed on Operation Hardihood in May/June 1966 when the Battalion was also under command, ie before the Task Force sallied forth from Vung Tau to Nui Dat. Two men from 105 Field Battery, RAA, one from 3 Field Squadron and two from 161 Battery RNZA are also listed.

Daylight and night time views of the memorial in Georgia, USA.



On the left panel in the night photograph there are images of the RAR badge, the Badge of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery (who had two men killed from 161 Battery when attached to 173rd) and on the bottom ,an Australian Army Infantry Combat Badge.

The US Army it seems is good at remembering its allies, in this case by the 173rd Airborne Association. The Brigade itself is currently (2017) based at Vicenza in Italy as the US Army Europe’s rapid response force.

Peter’s Tracker Dog Caesar chosen for bronze memorial

For those members who recall going through the Infantry Training Centre at Ingelburn NSW here’s some news that maybe of interest.

On November 22 last year a ceremony was held at what is now known as Edmonson Park railway station - just a few hundred metres from the old Infantry Centre.

The NSW Government, through the Urban Growth Department, has erected a bronze statute of a tracking dog at the entrance to the station.

It was a nod of recognition to the Tracking Dog Kennels that were at the Ingelburn camp from 1966 -1971

The War Dog centre sent 11 tracking dogs to Vietnam - none returned

They selected tracking dog Caesar as the subject for artist Ochre Lawson to cast the bronze.

RAR Regiment member Peter Haran was Caesar’s handler with 2RAR shown in photo with NSW Minister Rob Stokes and artist Ochre Lawson.

Peter experienced the Vietnam War at 19 as one of the first tracking dog handlers to work in a combat role with the Australian forces in 1967. After his 12-month tour of duty he returned to Australia as a tracking dog instructor



and was posted back to Vietnam in 1971 for a second tour of duty. He is a founding member of the Australian Army Trackers And War Dogs Association. After 40 years Peter returned to Vietnam with a study team involved in the construction of schools and orphanages in southern Vietnam. He now is a vital part of Beyond Long Tan.

NO MAN WILL DIE ALONE

ANZAC Day at Hellfire Pass and the Death Railway

from Trevor Jones
Henley and Grange RSL Member

The Bridge over the River Kwai

The award-winning and highly acclaimed film "The Bridge over the River Kwai" was a very Hollywood fictitious account and bears little resemblance to the actual events which took place on what became known as DEATH RAILWAY. However, it did create enormous publicity and Hellfire Pass has become one of the most significant ANZAC Day Dawn Services outside Australia.

As ANZAC Day approaches this article is dedicated to the Prisoners of War (POWs) and the Asian workers who laboured on DEATH RAILWAY; and also remembers POW Jack Alfred Wiles (pictured), who with his brother Colin, enlisted at Henley Beach.



Building the Railway

To build the railway the Japanese assembled a multi-national workforce of approximately 270,000 Asian labourers and over 60,000 Australian, British, Dutch and American POWs. Work on the line began in southern Burma in October 1942 while at the same time construction also started in Thailand. On 16 October 1943, the two ends of the Burma-Thailand railway were joined.



The Cost

Of the 60,000 Allied POWs who worked on the railway, 12,399 or 20% died. Some 75,000 Asian labourers are also believed to have died. The reasons for this appalling death rate were lack of proper food, totally inadequate medical supplies, illness, exhaustion, and, at times, the brutal treatment from guards and railway supervisors. The POWs who died along the railway were reinterred at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemeteries at Kanchanaburi, Thanbyuzayat and Chung Kai. American dead were returned to America.

2013 ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Hellfire Pass

The nearest town to Hellfire Pass is Kanchanaburi, some 80km away, which means leaving at 3am to attend the Dawn Service. Despite its remoteness, it has become a very significant service, and at a clearing at one end of Hellfire Pass a permanent Memorial has been built, a temporary stand erected and the rest

is standing room only and was packed with visitors. Australia's Minister of Defence – Stephen Smith at the time – the respective New Zealand and Australian Ambassadors were in attendance. While this made for a very dignified ceremony, there were several extraordinary ex-servicemen also in attendance. They were all POWs, who laboured on what now is commonly referred to as DEATH RAILWAY, and now all in their 90s.

Some of their memories

Bart Richardson OAM

From Shoal Bay, NSW.

He was one of a group known as 'H' Force, who worked on the Railway. One of their tasks was to build an embankment for the railway. This back-breaking labour involved carrying hand baskets filled with about two shovels full of soil to the embankment. He also worked on the Konyu Cutting, now known as Hellfire Pass, where his party worked in two shifts of 12 hours during the infamous "Speedo" period to complete the work. One of Bart's strongest memories of his time in Thailand was the commitment the men had to ensure NO MAN DIED ALONE. He recalls that often men would hold the hand of their dying mates as they slipped away.

Gordon Jamieson

From Robina, Queensland.

Of his time working on the Railway, Gordon remembers the kindness and generosity of spirit of his fellow prisoners. He recalls that if a man lost his mate another "would adopt you". If he was sent to work in a group of men from another battalion, he always found that they welcomed him. This mateship lasted throughout the post-war years. Gordon also recalls that, in spite of the suffering endured during his time as a prisoner, there were instances of dark humour and these moments of laughter helped him get through particularly difficult times.

Jack Thomas

From Modbury, SA, originally Broken Hill

Reflecting on his overseas service, which included Syria, captured in Java and finally to Japan, Jack recalls that he was 'moved mostly by the history and geography of the places visited'. He also remembers fondly the life-long friends he made. Jack also remembers being drawn to one friend in particular, whom he looked up to as a mentor, though he was quite unlike Jack. During the war they were separated and though they never met again Jack named one of his sons after him.

Milton (Snow) Fairclough

From country Western Australia.

He laboured on section of the railway near Hellfire Pass on bridge work. Snow Fairclough was renowned for his 'mateship', resourcefulness and for his compassion for his fellow prisoners. He spent countless hours foraging for little extras for any of his mates who were ill and on light rations. He would stay with men in their dying hours maintaining the tradition of NO MAN WILL DIE ALONE. Even when the dreaded cholera epidemic raged he still nursed cholera patients without any regard for his own health.

ANZAC Day at Hellfire Pass and the Death Railway

Neil MacPherson OAM From Western Australia.

Neil's service record reads like a travelogue. From enlisting in WA to the Middle East and captured in the East Indies, to labouring laying sleepers and rails from the Burma end of the railway, back to Singapore, and finally to Japan, where he laboured in coal mines near Nagasaki for the last eight months of the war. On 16 August, 1945, the prisoners were freed; and Neil's travelogue to home continued. The POWs left Senryu coal mines on 14 September for Nagasaki where they boarded ships en route to Okinawa. They travelled on B24 Liberator bombers to Luzon Island and by C45 Transports to Manila and then by the aircraft carrier HMS Formidable to Sydney; and finally by train to Melbourne, Adelaide and to his home city Perth.



POW Veterans, in suits, at the Hellfire Pass

Robert Goodwin OAM From Highfields, Queensland.

Of his time on the railway, Bob remembers working on the 'bloody cutting', which he notes was not called Hellfire Pass at the time. He recalls lying on bamboo alongside twelve to fourteen men to keep off the wet ground, and the deep blackness of the night as all forms of lighting had been confiscated. The only light was a faint glow from the cook's fire some 50 yards away. Committed to the commemoration of Australian military history, Bob has published three books documenting his own experiences and other stories of the war.

Walter Holding Bassendean, Western Australia.

A railway worker before he enlisted, Walter was part of 'F' Force; 7000 POWs dispatched from Singapore to work on the railway. After a 5-day train ride in cramped, steel rice wagons and then a 290km walk to Sonkurai No 2 camp, it is estimated 1350 didn't make it to this notorious camp. Members of "F" Force suffered more than most prisoners on the Burma Thailand Railway, because apart from the diseases, inhumane and brutal treatment, starvation and terrible conditions, they worked predominately beyond where supplies could be made via the River Kwai. In total of 28% of 'F' Force died on the railway.

Kanchanaburi War Graves Cemetery

Back in the township of Kanchanaburi, a similar ANZAC Day service is held at 10 o'clock at the Kanchanaburi

War Graves Cemetery. This allows a lot more people to attend, although many attend both. One of the former POWs not only read the full version of the 'Ode' but also spoke of his experiences working on the railway and during the 15 months it took to build the railway, how Australians adopted a NO MAN WILL DIE ALONE mateship and support for a dying soldier.

He also spoke that after DEATH RAILWAY was completed they were shifted to a camp and conditions were somewhat better; and how they shared their camp's meagre water supply with wounded and sick Japanese soldiers who were coming back down the railway from Burma. It seems that the Japanese Military were neglecting their own troops.



This beautifully maintained cemetery contains the remains of Australian, English and Dutch POWs.

Hellfire Pass Museum

The Australian Government funded Hellfire Pass Museum is dedicated both to the Allied POWs and the Asian labourers who suffered and died on DEATH RAILWAY and elsewhere in the Asia Pacific Region during the Second World War.

Lest We Forget the ASIAN labourers; the Malays, Chinese, Vietnamese, Indian and Burmese, who unlike the Allied War Memorials and Commemoration Services, have not only no one to represent their history, but also had virtually no overall organisational structure or medical support on DEATH RAILWAY.

Lest We Forget the Australian, British, Dutch and American POWs who laboured and died on DEATH RAILWAY.

Lest We Forget Private Jack Alfred Wiles, 2/3 Machine Gun Battalion, Australian Infantry, who became a Prisoner of War and laboured on DEATH RAILWAY and died of illness on the 21 September 1943, age 31 years, and is interred in the Kanchanaburi War Graves Cemetery. A photo of Jack, who, along with his brother, enlisted at Henley Beach, hangs in the Henley and Grange RSL Clubrooms.

We know that

Jack Alfred Wiles Did Not Die Alone

48th Hat Dich Commemorative Service



Hat Dich Veterans (from left) Craig Haydock, Ed Cowley, David Stacey and John Genovese.



Mrs Ceremonial Sandra Craig and Ceremonial Officer Adrian Craig with David and Jan Stacey.



Brig Mike Burgess, AM



Catafalque party members were Cpl Justin Evans, Pte Jordan Carbis, Pte Jake Loosley, Pte Michael Mumah-Steadman, Pte Jordan Odd and flag orderlies Pte Nicholas Buckle and Pte Daniel Jack..



Left: Member from Bragg Vicki Chapman watches as her granddaughter Ellie-Elizabeth places a poppy.



Left: Member for Bragg Vicki Chapman, her granddaughter Adelaide, 9, and Member for florey Francis Bedford place tributes.

Right: Dean Pye, ASASR Assoc. SA Secretary, Ed Cowley and David Stacey after placing poppies..



Catherine Lambert and the Terrace singers.



Speakers (from left) Michael von Berg who gave the welcome address (MC Russell Campbell in background); Chaplain David Prior 7RAR; Rodney Harris, the commemorative address; and David Stacey, Roll of Honour.

48th Hat Dich Commemorative Service

Around 60 people from a wide cross-section of community members from battalion and association members to politicians and the catafalque party members, young men from 7 RAR, attended the combined regiments 48th Anniversary Hat Dich Commemorative Service at the Royal Australian Regiment Association RSL Hall at Linden Park on February 19.

Master of Ceremonies Russell Campbell OAM outlined the service before the catafalque party members took their places around the cross.

The welcome address was given by RARA SA President Michael von Berg MC, OAM; the Call to Worship and prayers were given by Chaplain David Prior, 7RAR; the Commemorative Address by Rodney Harris, 4 RAR Association President; the Roll of Honour was read by David Stacey, 9 RAR Association President; the scripture reading from Ecclesiasticus 44 was presented by Deane Pye, Australian SAS Association SA Branch Secretary; The Ode recited by John Genovese, RFD 1 RAR SA; and the Last Post and The Rouse played by Bugler Michael Bampton, 10/27 RSAR.

Ed Cowley W Company 4 RAR /NZ (ANZAC) lead the Hat Dich veterans laying of tributes and Hat Dich veteran Craig Haydock, President RAAC Vietnam Veterans Association SA also laid a tribute.

Adding more emotion to the occasion, Catherine Lambert and the Terrace Singers sang the "Royal Australian Regiment Prayer of Consecration" and "Amazing Grace". They have been staunch supporters of RARA SA Association commemorations for many years. Catherine arranged for the prayer to be set to music.

During the laying of tributes Pipe Major Des Ross played a lament and later the farewell march as Waltzing Matilda.

Lunch was served after the service with many attendees taking the opportunity to catch up with friends they had not seen for some time.

Thanks must go to the Minister of Veterans Affairs SA for his grant and 4 RAR SA and 9 RAR SA for their donations which combined almost covered the costs of the service and lunch.

Special thanks go to Ceremonial Officer Adrian Craig for the magnificent work he continues to do to make the occasions run smoothly and appropriately with the help of those setting up - chef Colin Abel, Chris Shannon, Sandra Craig and Russell Campbell, photographer Bruce Forster and Infantryman Editor Penelope Forster.



Comemorative address by Rodney Harris, President 4 RAR Association SA

4719545 Pte Reginald Arthur Phillips

In the 1940s Murray Bridge was a vibrant town which serviced the surrounding farming community with great dedication.

It was only two years after the end of WW2 that Reginald Arthur Phillips was born on 17th April 1947 to Sydney and Lorna Phillips. Within a few years Reg was joined by two younger sisters, Janet and Helen.



Reg was educated at Murray Bridge Infant School, Murray Bridge Primary School and Murray Bridge High School, and later attended the Murray Bridge Technical College where he learned and excelled at welding.

He gained employment with Nicolai and Fisk Machinery Ltd in Murray Bridge which specialised in Massey Ferguson Tractors and other farm machinery, which suited Reg right down to the ground.

Reg became very popular with the surrounding farming community because of his ability to repair their machinery. He built his own dune buggy and that, with Glenda, his fiancée, and his keenness for fishing, were the three loves of his life.

His life changed when he was called up for National Service in 1967.

Reg did his Recruit Training at Puckapunyal in Victoria, Corps Training at Singleton in New South Wales, and was finally posted to 9 Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment in April of 1968. On 20th November of that year Reg arrived in South Vietnam with 9 RAR.

He remained with his Section during their operational training, and then deployed on Operation KING HIT from mid December to Christmas Eve 1968.

On New Year's Day 1969 9 RAR deployed to the Hat Dich region in the southern part of the Bien Hoa Province to counter the enemy build-up for the Tet Offensive.

During the afternoon of January 18 1969 "Reg's platoon" came into contact with a group of enemy and in the following fire fight Reg was severely wounded. Despite the supreme efforts of the Army surgeon, Reg died later that evening in the 1st Australian Field Hospital at Vung Tau.

Reg's Section 2IC Pte Geoff "Tubby" Shaw was wounded in the same contact while evacuating Reg, and another section member, Pte John Brewer, was also wounded.

I have spoken to Reg's loving family and, understandably, they still grieve for the boy who never came home.

Reg will never be forgotten by the community of Murray Bridge, as the RSL Function Room is now named after Reg and another Murray Bridge soldier who died in Vietnam, Pte Jeffry Rivett.

The room is proudly named the Phillips – Rivett Hall

Lest We Forget

Spotlight on RARA SA Christmas dinner



In the decorated clubrooms with tables laid equally attractively, a large gathering of Association members and friends had a thoroughly enjoyable evening at the Christmas party on December 16. This bunch of ladies epitomise the atmosphere. They are (front from left Joy Johnson, Ann Dennis, Michelle Gelberg and Beryl Kearns Back from left: Wanida Czerwinski, Lynn Graham, Sandra Craig, Tass Karasoulos, Heather Dwiar, and Linda Whinnen.



Left: Joy Johnson, winner of one of the Christmas baskets, donated by Arthur and Michelle Gelberg with Club Manager Greg Dwiar and with her husband, Brian.



Right: Joy with Heather Dwiar both of whom were lucky winners of the half legs of ham.



Craig Nicholls and Penelope Forster making dessert choices.



Winners of the half legs of ham were John Hadaway (left) and RARA SA Treasurer Mike Bevan.



Ann Denis (right) receiving dessert of Christmas pudding, cream, custard and strawberries from Arthur and Michelle. An amazing array of dishes were laid out for the Christmas dinner hosted by the Royal Australian Regiment Association SA on December 16. Thanks go to Chef Colin Abel, Rod Graham and Greg Dwiar who prepared the feast.



Margery and Keith Parkes of Mt Barker travelled the furthest to attend the event.

Having a jolly good time were (back from left) Craig Nicholls, Maria Verdiglione and Margie Nicholls, Front: Armando Verdiglione and Mark and Elisea Nicholls.



Toasting the festive season are (back from left) Neil Nichols, Ken Duthie, Jacqui Scott, Trevor Jones and David White. Front: Bob and Denise Whelan and Marlene and Robert Carrison.

NEWS FROM THE BATTALIONS

3 RAR SA

Following our great Christmas Party at the RAR Association clubrooms on November 20 we have had a quiet period over Christmas/New Year but are now back into our activities which include monthly lunches at the Lord Melbourne Hotel, fundraising sausage sizzles at various Bunnings stores and a quiz night at the RAR Association clubrooms on Saturday May 27.

This year D Company of the First Tour of Vietnam will be conducting a reunion in Adelaide coinciding with Kapyong Day and ANZAC Day and joining our Association at both activities. Our plan is to have our post ANZAC March function at the Lord Melbourne Hotel.

On the commemorative side we will be conducting Kapyong (Monday April 24) and Long Khanh (Wednesday June 7) commemorative services plus a small number of graveside gatherings in the first half of 2017.

Our AGM is on Sunday 26 March..

Adrian Craig
3 RAR SA representative.

8/9 RAR

As advised in the last newsletter we are still looking for past members of 8/9 RAR to march on ANZAC Day behind their own banner. The RAR Association SA has approved funds for the production of a banner based on the National 8/9 RAR banner's design.

Past members of 8/9 RAR who wish to march behind their banner on ANZAC Day are requested to contact the Ceremonial Manager; Adrian Craig on 8263 4784 or as.craig9rar@bigpond.com

Adrian Craig, Ceremonial Manager

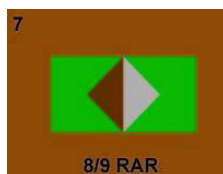
9 RAR SA

9 RAR SA has been relatively quiet except for the AGM last November, the annual Operation GOODWOOD graveside gatherings in January and February and participating in the Hat Dich Commemorative Service on February 19.

Our major activity for 2017 will be hosting the 9 RAR National Reunion in Adelaide and surrounding areas over the period 13-15 November which coincides with the Battalion's 50th Anniversary.

Our plan is to conduct our post ANZAC March function in the back room of The Lion Hotel.

Adrian Craig, 9 RAR SA rep.



7RAR Presentation to RARA SA

By Centurion

On 1 September 2015, on the 50th Anniversary of its raising at Puckapunyal in 1965, 7RAR held a memorial service at Battalion Headquarters in Horseshoe Lines. A rose garden was established with a rose and plaque for each of the 34 men who were killed in action (33 in Vietnam and 1 in Afghanistan).

During the ceremony, attended by the Governor General, Sir Peter Cosgrove, an Australian Flag was flown over each plaque. Some of these flags were then taken by 7RAR on its operational deployment to Iraq in 2016 and flown on various Flag stations used by the Battalion.



Right above: Flag Station at the Battalion Base in Camp Taji, north of Baghdad.



On 14 December, 2016, the CO 7RAR, Lt Col David McCammon and the RSM 7RAR, WO1 Matthew Bold (above) presented one of those flags in a framed case to the RAR Association SA.



Lt Col McCammon presenting the flag to the Association President, Mick von Berg (right).

The presentation was to recognise the support given by the Association to the Battalion since it arrived in Adelaide and for it to be housed in the clubrooms in Beatty Street as "the enduring home of The Regiment in SA".



Say 'Hi' at high tea with Easter Bunny

An invitation is extended to partners of veterans to attend a high tea at Legacy House, Franklin Street, Adelaide, on Wednesday, April 5, from 1pm to 3pm. Cost: \$30 or \$50 for mother and daughter. Friendly atmosphere and a chance to greet old friends and meet new ones. Tickets: Helen Anderson 8322 5746, Carmen Webster 0410 929 979 or Marion at Legacy House 8232 9812 (cash only).

FROM THE BATTALIONS

3 RAR SA

For Wednesday 24 May 2017 we have booked a visit to the Bublacowie Military Museum on Yorke Peninsula

The cost is \$25 which includes entry, lunch, tea or coffee.

We will hire a bus which will leave the RAR clubrooms at 0900 and return at 1630. Depending on the interest shown will determine the cost and size bus we arrange.

For expressions of interest I am at the clubrooms each Friday afternoon or reply to rar01@internode.on.net or phone me on 0412 644 749. - Spike



Set in two acres of native shrubs and trees and built in the grounds of the former Bublacowie school, this privately owned museum and memorial gardens contains an extensive range of military memorabilia from WW1, WW11 and the Vietnam, Korea and Gulf wars as well as other heritage items.

Built and owned by Vietnam/Malay veteran, Chris Soar BM, the museum was built to keep alive the memories of the sacrifices made by so many, and to help the young people of today learn about our military history. Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Sunday 10am - 4pm or by appointment for bus tours and social clubs.



Grant for Malaya & Borneo memorial

The SA NT Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association has received a grant from the City of West Torrens which will allow the siting of a black granite memorial and bronze plaque in the Memorial Gardens adjacent to the council chambers at Hilton.

The memorial is being manufactured by Tillet's Memorial of Adelaide and the task is scheduled for completion the week before ANZAC Day with the unveiling and dedication service pencilled in for Saturday April 22 at 11 hrs.

It will be the site for the Association's annual Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Day service on Saturday August 31 in conjunction with Merdeka Day celebration in Malaya.



5/7 RARA

SA representative national secretary



Chris Shannon, 5/7 RAR Association SA Representative, was re-elected 5/7 RAR Association National Secretary for the second time at the 5/7 RAR Association's AGM on Saturday 26 November 2016 at the City of Sydney RSL, one of the battalion's former favourite watering holes. He said:

"About 17 former serving members attended. After the AGM the association hosted dinner and drinks for members".

Asked to provide some information about his background, Chris wrote: "I am currently the SA 5/7 RAR Association Representative and the National Association's secretary was 'volunteered' for the role in November 2015. I thoroughly enjoy the role as well as the opportunity to be part of the RAR Association SA. It's great to be able to give something back.

"I served in 5/7 RAR from 1986 to 1987 before corps transferring to RACMP. I left the Army in 1989 and worked in hotels for about 20 years before owning a cleaning business. In 1989 I had a major back operation while in the Army, which eventually led to me becoming TPI in 2011. In my spare time I enjoy playing darts, brewing beer and metal detecting."

Asked for more he wrote:

Hobbies/Pastimes: Brewing beer (Turning water into beer is a miracle indeed), playing darts (using a rifle would be easier) and metal detecting (Not gaining riches but losing weight-its good exercise!)

Age: 49

Place of birth : Elizabeth, SA

Schooling : Blackfriars Priory School, Prospect SA

Army Service: 1986-1989

Units served: RAINF - 5/7 RAR Holsworthy, RACMP-2 MP COY Ingleburn, Randwick,

Overseas service: Hong Kong 1986 with C Coy 5/7 RAR.

Volunteer position: 5/7 RAR Association secretary, 5/7 RAR Association SA Representative.

Time in position: 18 months.

Reason for volunteering: Boredom, wanting to contribute.

Civilian employment: I worked in hotels from the old Hotel Australia to the Hindley Parkroyal and a few pubs in between in, just about every job in hospitality.

When I was young I wanted to bea rock star.

Most embarrassing moment: While delivering room service to the young actress Sophie Lee, who answered the door wearing only a small hotel towel, I lost concentration and dropped the whole tray of food and beverages all over the carpet.

Favourite holiday spot: Southern Yorke Peninsula.

Favourite food: Schnitzel Parmagiana.

Favourite drink: Beer /V8 juice.

Favourite singer/band: Hilltop Hoods.

Favourite TV show: The Simpsons.

Favourite movie: Pulp Fiction.

Favourite actor: Jack Nicholson.

FROM THE BATTALIONS

8RARA

Great line up of activities for 2017

Another year has gone. Hope this year will be a good one for you all.

Friday 2 December 2016 saw a number of us gather at the Birkenhead Tavern for our Christmas lunch. As you can see by the smiles in the photograph, everyone enjoyed the meal and the company. The location added to the overall enjoyment of the day.



At the Committee meeting on January 13 it was decided to undertake visits, lunches and other events during this year. The first event was the commemoration of Long Hai Day at 1100 hours on Tuesday 28 February 2017 at the Memorial on the Pathway of Honour, adjacent to the Torrens Parade Ground. Parking was available on the Parade Ground. After the Commemoration we went to the Kensington Hotel in Regent Street, Kensington, for lunch.

A Dolphin Cruise has been booked for Friday 24 March aboard the Dolphin Explorer. The 2 ½ hour cruise on the Port River will include a two-course meal. You need to be at Queen's Wharf ready to board no later than 1115 hours. The cost will be \$23 including the meal. After the tour, if there is enough interest, we will visit the nearby Maritime Museum in Port Adelaide.

On ANZAC Day, **April 25**, after the March in the city, we will be moving to the Robin Hood Hotel, 315 Portrush Rd, Norwood, for lunch.

June will see us visiting the National Military Vehicle Museum at Edinburgh. At this stage it will be at 1400 hours on either Friday June 9 or 23. (I have not as yet been able to get an answer from the Museum to finalise the date.) It is intended to have a meal before the tour at a nearby eatery. More on this event as the time draws closer.

Tuesday **8 August** 2017 is the AGM and Battalion Birthday. The venue is yet to be determined and will be advised at a later date.

Friday **22 September** 2017 at 1030 hours is a visit to the Aviation Museum at 66 Lipson Street, Port Adelaide. After the visit we will again be moving to a nearby eatery for lunch.

Christmas lunch this year will again be at the Birkenhead Tavern, 3 Elder Street, Birkenhead, at 1200 hours on Friday **December 1**.

Please advise me (contacts below) which events you will be attending. Apart from the actual ANZAC Day March, all events are for you and your partner. We need to be advised a reasonable time before hand of those attending to enable numbers to be finalised with the venue. Please make every effort to attend as many of the events as possible. We need you there to make the events worthwhile.

A reminder that our 8 Ball magazine will be distributed via email in future. If you have an email address and have not had any emails from me recently, can you please forward the address to me so I can update my email address file.

Ted Forward

08 82351625 or 0421 349 990
adrienne.ted.forward@gmail.co



Are you an avid fisherman and would like to get out more often with like-minded people? Does not owning a boat, standing on a jetty for ages waiting for something to happen, or rock hopping to a spot, cause you to put it off until another day? Then this group may be for you. We meet at TPI House on the last Friday of each month at 1000 hrs to discuss what's happened last month. We have a range of activities planned for the coming couple of months. We are very interested in the younger veterans from East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan to come along and enjoy the great outdoors. We are not filled with ex-Infantry, we cater for all services, Navy, Air Force, Army. See website for details. For more information phone Kevin Stone 8284 3974.

New assets test limits introduced

New assets test limits came into effect on 1 January 2017. The assets test applies to the Service Pension and Income Support Supplement as well as pensions paid under the social security laws such as the Age Pension.

Compensation payments such as the Disability Pension and War Widow(er) Pension are not affected by the assets test. Veterans or war widows who currently hold a DVA Gold Card will not lose their Gold Card. There will be no change to the existing assets test exemptions for the family home. Assessable assets include bank accounts, shares, investment properties and cars.

You can claim a Health Care Card from the Department of Human Services (DHS) if your assets exceed the cut-off, resulting in your payments ceasing. You will not have to meet the usual income test requirements for this card.

A Commonwealth Seniors Health Card will also be issued for people over the pension age without the need to meet income test requirements.

Those affected by the changes should have received correspondence detailing the changes.

For more information, including tables showing asset values, visit the 'Rebalanced assets test' page on the DVA website and the 'Changes to the pension assets test' page on the DHS website.

You can also call DVA on 133 254 or free call 1800 555 254.

Royal Australian Regiment Association Committee 2016- 2017

Patron Laurie Lewis AM

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MEAL & BAR ROSTER APR - AUG

MEAL		BAR
APRIL		
Hamburger	7	Chris Shannon
GOOD FRIDAY	14	CLOSED
BBQ and salads	21	Bob Whelan
KAPYONG DAY	24	3 RAR
ANZAC DAY	25	CLOSED
Schnitzel night	28	Tim Kara
MAY		
Hamburger	5	Adrian Craig
Family Friday	12	Neil Nichols
BBQ and salads	19	Spike
Schnitzel night	26	Chris Shannon
JUNE		
Hamburger	2	Bob Whelan
Family Friday	9	Tim Kara
Guest Chef	16	Adrian Craig
BBQ and salads	23	Neil Nichols
Schnitzel night	30	Spike
JULY		
Hamburger	7	Chris Shannon
Family Friday	14	Bob Whelan
BBQ and salads	21	Tim Kara
Schnitzel night	28	Adrian Craig
AUGUST		
Hamburger	4	Neil Nichols
Family Friday	11	Spike
LONG TAN DAY	18	T.B.A
Schnitzel night	25	Chris Shannon

The deadline for the August 2017 publication of Infantryman will be mid June. Articles and photos always welcome and should be emailed to Michael von Berg on mvb@michaelvonberg.com and penelopeforster01@gmail.com for consideration. Thanks - Penelope Forster, Editor

Catherine May, Physiotherapist



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