



INFANTRYMAN

The Journal of the RAR Association SA

Keeping the Spirit Alive

August 2019



Michael von Berg MC OAM

President Royal Australian Regiment Association SA

I was very privileged and honoured to be a key note speaker at the recent Regional Jungle Warfare Symposium in Brunei over the period 27 June to 2 July 2019.

A total of 19 countries participated and the hosts The Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) in partnership with British Forces Brunei (BFB) did an amazing job in organization and planning. The venue for the symposium was the Defence Academy of the RBAF which is a stunning facility.

The theme for the symposium *"What are the ends, ways and means for delivering Joint and Inter-Agency effects within the jungle environment"*. This certainly got the syndicate discussions going with interesting and creative input.

Maj Gen Timothy Hyams, the UK Land Force Commander, opened proceedings followed by my speech and Q&A for about an hour and then two days of syndicate discussions where I was encouraged to sit in on all syndicates which were very enlightening.

The common language was English, which certainly helps, and in nearly all of the discussions the emphasis was more on unconventional jungle warfare which, when looking at current and future likely terrorist activity in the region, is understandable.

On the second last day there was an estuarine attack demonstration for the delegates in the company of the two Crown Princes of Brunei on the the Ulu Tutong Dam.

The photograph below is the Crown Princes' boat with entourage passing some RBLF soldiers lined up after the successful attack had been completed.

The Crown Princes are in cherry berets and, if you look closely on the land, the soldiers are lined up in the present arms position for the royal drive by.

If it was us in the good old days we would all be sitting around brewing up and smoking a dury.

Continued page 2



Regional Jungle Warfare Symposium Brunei Darussalam

Continued from page 1

Later that afternoon I was reintroduced to the jungle for a jungle escape and survival demonstration and I thought I was going to die.

The heat, the humidity, the closeness of the vegetation, the slippery conditions underfoot and ankles caught up in root systems, not acclimatized (that's my excuse), aged and overweight made me realise how fit and svelte we all were 50 years ago making our way through a similar environment.

After two litres of water, sitting to recover in a 4WD with the air conditioner working overtime and slowly recovering took me back so many years ago where we did this day in day out and not just the 30 minutes that almost killed me. Amazing really when you look back and no wonder in all of the photos I have of Vietnam you didn't see too many overweight or fat infantrymen.

Due to my further involvement I will continue on my Keto diet (lost 10kg thus far) so the next time I venture into the "J" I might last for 45 minutes. Can only get better.



Instead of staying in the hotel that had been arranged I decided to stay in the Gurkha Garrison Officers Mess where very generously I was allocated one of the VIP self-contained suites overlooking the South China Sea which was great for a swim and no crocs or jelly fish. Well, none that I could see.

The added incentive in staying in the Mess was that I could have a drink whereas the strict Brunei hotels are all dry and in the tropics I really do enjoy my G&T.

In addition it was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with some of the young men and women of the Mess

whose service in the Gurkha and in Brunei they are all enjoying.

In conclusion it was wonderful to be a part of so many different nations, cultures and languages at the Symposium all so different yet unanimous in improving through cooperation their jungle warfare skills fighting the evil of terror.

If more nations worked together in this open and collegiate way wouldn't it be a far better world?

- Michael von Berg MC OAM

Annual Vietnam War Service includes Battle of Long Tan

On Sunday 18 August 2019 the RAR Assoc. SA will conduct its annual Vietnam War Service including the Battle of Long Tan Commemorative Service in its clubrooms at 13 Beatty Street, Linden Park.

The Service will commence at 11am and will be of 50 minutes duration followed by a light lunch of a sausage sizzle with salads.

The Service will commemorate all of the Australian losses in the Vietnam War and will be multi-unit in format with the:

- RAR Association - Commemorative Address.
- 6 RAR Association Battle of Long Tan Roll of Honour and US Presidential Unit Citation.
- RAAC Vietnam Veterans Association SA – Poem The Memorial.

- RAA representative SA – The Ode in the form of the 3rd and 4th stanzas of "For the Fallen".
- Choral - Catherine Lambert and the Terrace Singers.
- As a mark of respect to our war dead those attending the Service are requested to wear a coat and tie with decorations and medals.
- Except for those who have received an official invitation there is no need to indicate attendance before the Service.
- Direct Questions and Queries about Service to the Ceremonial Manager RAR Association SA Adrian Craig at craig9rar@bigpond.com or 8263 4784

FROM THE COMMAND POST

AGM sees no change in volunteers' positions

At the Annual General Meeting of the RAR Association on Sunday the 14 July 2019 your committee was reappointed unopposed. I sincerely thank the appointees who have agreed to continue on in their respective positions and the support and confidence of the membership in ratifying those appointments.

It was unanimously agreed to retain the current reporting financial year ending on the 30 June each year but to reschedule AGMs to a more climatically suitable period in November of each year. As we get older we seem to feel the cold a lot more and to encourage greater attendance and input at AGMs the warmer climes may stimulate better attendances. November is certainly warmer than July in Linden Park!

Rodney and I will be attending the RAR National AGM and Council Meeting in Canberra July 24 - 26 where many issues of a national nature affecting all veterans will be discussed.

The recent Productivity Commission report; the Future of Advocacy and in particular what the future of models of care for veterans will look like into the future.

Although there are many issues within both reports we do not agree with, there are many which are sound and we believe it is probably the best opportunity we will have to develop submissions and input to assist the Government in what shape and operational capabilities of DVA for the next 50 years.

Although, as previously reported by me that DVA like any other organisations is not perfect it's hardly the basket case being reported by ill-advised and perhaps

sensationalist media outlets.

The Veteran Centric support program and its role out are the biggest improvement I have experienced in my 10 years on the ESORT and the continuing and ongoing improvements in particular quicker processing and empathy for veterans can only get better.

There are, however, some serious issues that need to be addressed and if collectively in a collegiate fashion we are able to assist in rectifying these issues it will be a very powerful legacy for our younger veterans.

While we are trying to address these national issues there are also local issues which need our attention and that is still the matter of succession planning at both club and committee level. If there are any younger veterans out there who have the time and want to make a difference I would encourage you to put your hand up because some of us can't keep going forever.

We have a good club atmosphere. We leave our rank and egos outside the door and, most importantly, we are passionate in "keeping the spirit alive". That's what it's really all about.

It's through that spirit of inclusiveness, helping young veterans of any corps or service and not just from the Regiment. We have always had an open door policy. Perhaps we should announce that more broadly.

- Michael von Berg MC OAM



VETAFFAIRS WINTER 20: Changes deferred to allied health referrals

The Government has decided to defer its changes to allied health referrals.

From 1 October 2019 (not 1 July as stated in the hard-copy version of the Vetaffairs Winter edition), allied health referrals will be valid for up to 12 sessions or a year, whichever ends first – this is the new 'treatment cycle'.

The Government has listened to health professionals who deliver health care to our veteran community about the need for more support to accompany the treatment cycle change.

This deferral will allow us to undertake further

consultation and communication with our key stakeholders to ensure the new treatment cycle program is well understood by DVA clients and health providers.

When introduced, the treatment cycle will see a client's allied health provider report back to the client's GP who will assess if they need further treatment. The GP may refer the client for a further treatment cycle of up to 12 sessions, or to another provider if that better suits the client's needs. Or they may consider another type of treatment.

While there has been extensive consultation on the design of the treatment cycle with health associations,



Vietnam amputee visits Doctor who saved his life

John and Don were visiting the Beards during their visit with their wives to South Australia.

John Richardson was a National Serviceman serving in 7 Platoon C Company during the first tour of 3RAR in Vietnam from December 1967 to December 1968. John arrived in Vietnam with the main body aboard HMAS Sydney on 27th December 1967.

He was a rifleman in 7 Platoon and performed his duties with enthusiasm and efficiently. On 22 March 1968 C Company was working with engineers to clear mines from the western side of the Long Hai Hills.

9 Platoon was probing one side of a ravine and 7 Platoon was probing the other side, approximately 90 to 140 metres apart, when suddenly a loud explosion was heard as John Richardson from 7 Platoon stepped on a mine. He was very badly wounded.

The platoon commander, Second Lieutenant Lawrence Appelbee along with Corporal Graham Fox were also wounded in the initial blast. Pte Kevin Cole was approaching over ground he had previously covered to assist us when he detonated another mine and was killed instantly.

Ronald Carroll and Robert Clark were wounded from these explosions. Two engineers supporting 9 Platoon, Sappers Geoffrey Coombs and Vincent Tobin were also killed when they detonated another mine.

Reference "Brave Lads" 3RAR in South Vietnam 1967-1968 by Michael English, pages 156-157 and John Richardson's email dated 26 June 26.

John Richardson suffered severe injuries to both legs. He was evacuated with the other wounded by 'Dustoff' helicopter and delivered to the 8th Field Ambulance in the 1st Logistic Supply Depot Vung Tau.

Colonel Don Beard, RMO 3RAR of the Battle of Kapyong Korea in April 1951, was the surgeon on attachment to the ambulance who treated Richardson.

Colonel Beard, on being interviewed by Colonel Scott at his home on 25 June, recalled when Richardson was brought into the Field Ambulance on a stretcher he said: "Sir, I know what you are thinking. You are trying to decide which of us you will operate on first".

He knew I was the only surgeon as he pointed to Corporal Fox and said "Would you take my corporal first, you maybe able to give us one leg between us. This was a brave statement. I operated and was only able to save one leg between the two of them".

After the operation both soldiers were evacuated to Australia. Richardson went back to cattle farming for 50 years. He and his wife Lorraine have two married children and five grandchildren.

"Fifty years later I was sitting with Margaret in the back garden. I turned around and saw Richardson walking up our driveway.

"I said 'what are you doing here, Richardson' and he replied 'I came over to Adelaide to see my son play football so decided to find you to thank you for saving my life.'



** From left: Colonel Don Beard AM RFD ED (Rtd), Don Bradshaw, John Richardson, Colonel Peter Scott DSO (Rtd) in the garden of Colonel and Mrs Beard, Norwood on Sunday 23 June 2019.*

He said he had only lost 3 or 4 days working since returning to work.

Don Bradshaw was also a National Serviceman. He was called up in the First Intake in 1966 but was deferred until the Fourth Intake.

He was posted to 1 Armoured Regiment located in Puckapunyal where he was learning to be a centurion tank crewman.

When the decision was made to send tanks to Vietnam Don did not have enough time left from his two-year obligation to go with the tanks. He regretfully spent his national service in Puckapunyal.

John said that "Don married Pam upon his discharge from service. He then worked for International Farm Machinery for some years before retreating to Peterborough and the dairy, milking cows for many years.

He now lives in the township of Peterborough. They have three married daughters and nine grandchildren. I (Richardson) also have a house in Peterborough so we see each other often".

***Information for this article gathered during discussions between all four on 23 June and between Colonel Beard and myself on 25 June and email from John Richardson on June 26.**

- Peter Scott

All welcome on Friday evenings

One of the major tasks our Club Manager Spike (Greg Dwiar) has on his agenda is arranging the rosters for the dates, menus and the bar for the Friday evening get-togethers. On page 12 there is the listing for the next five months which includes monthly family nights on the second Friday of each month with a three-course meal (except in December) and other nights with a light meal.



RSL NATIONAL

The RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE of AUSTRALIA Ltd

PATRON: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

FORMER COMMANDO TAKES THE HELM OF THE NATIONAL RS NEW RSL PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY PRESIDENT

A former Australian Army commando is the new National President of the Returned & Services League of Australia

A Special General Meeting of the RSL has elected Major General Greg Melick *AO RFD FANSCZ SC*, as National President.

Mr John King, President of the ACT Branch of the RSL was elected Deputy National President.



General Melick has had a wide and varied career and is a Senior Counsel in the Tasmanian Bar and is currently a part time Deputy President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the Chief Commissioner of the Tasmanian Integrity Commission. He was elected from a field of three candidates to the position, which had been vacant for some months.

In the business sector, Greg Melick is well known in the Tasmanian wine industry as a producer and grower.

"I am honoured to be elected to lead the RSL at this critical time in the organisation's history," Greg said.

"The RSL has stood the test of time and I intend to bring the skills I have learned from both the Army and the private sector into play to make sure we keep going forward.

"I am a team player, but I also know what is needed to lead an organisation and I am delighted that John King has been elected as Deputy President.

"My first task is to listen to our membership and prioritise what they believe are the tasks we must undertake in the short term."

General Melick enjoyed a stellar career in the Australian Defence Force rising from the ranks to the rank of Major General and holding positions including the ADF's senior Reserve role responsible for Reserves and Cadets before retiring last December after 52 years' service. He is also Colonel Commandant, 1st Commando Regiment.

He is married with three adult children and is Patron of Defence Cricket, the Army Museum of Tasmania and the Friends of the Second Battalion.

The photo at right was taken at the Korean-Kapyong service in Adelaide on 24 April 2019. Korean Veterans attending were, from left, John Jarrett, President K&SEAFA; Keith Thomas 10 PL D Coy; "Rocky" Anock 3 PI A Coy; Don Beard RMO; Ray Aubert 7 PI - all four at Kapyong, - Patrick Forbes MC 2RAR on the Hook, Peter Scott MID 3RAR Maryang San; and Richard Lee, Korea and Vietnam.



My road to Vietnam -

from Ian McDougall, formerly Corporal, 4717396, RAAMC, 5RAR, 66/67

I had been “called-up” for National Service in the First Intake on 1 July 1965, and underwent Basic Training at Puckapunyal, Victoria. I was then posted to Healesville, Victoria, where I did the standard Medical Corps training for army medics. From there, I was posted to the General Hospital at Ingleburn, NSW, which was then (basically) a holding facility for trained medics prior to further deployment.

I had performed well in my Corps Training, and had indicated I would prefer an RAP posting, rather than a hospital situation. I was selected to assist the Corporal Medic at our small RAP for a few weeks, during which time I was sent to the ITC RAP for about a week, which is where I met Mick Seats.

He was the Staff Sergeant at that RAP and made me feel very welcome, and although I was only assigned basic duties, Mick kept a regular eye on what I was doing, and, despite his somewhat gruff attitude, I found he had a caring and fatherly attitude to his staff – at least he did to me, and he helped raise my confidence level towards RAP work.

I then applied for two training courses that were available – parachuting and jungle training. I was selected for the latter, and so followed six weeks at Canungra, Queensland, which I enjoyed. When I returned to Ingleburn, I was posted (almost immediately) to 104 Medium Battery (Artillery) at Holsworthy, NSW, as their Battery Medic, a Corporal’s position. I worked at the group RAP, where medics from several artillery batteries served. Some of my time there involved “needle parades”, getting men from various other units ready for Vietnam service.

I was aware that 104 Med Bty was not nominated for overseas posting, so I “fronted” my Battery CO to ask for transfer to a Vietnam bound unit. Nothing came of it, so I then wrote to the RAAMC senior officer in Sydney with the same request. Not being that well acquainted (then) with military procedure, I got my backside well and truly kicked by my CO when he learnt what I had done.

However, several days later, I was called to his office, where he told me that I had received my wish, and was henceforth posted to 5 RAR, which was based just across the road at Holsworthy.

This (I found out many years later) was because a bus taking 5RAR troops to the airport enroute for SVN had been involved in a collision, and the company medic aboard suffered a broken arm.

Hence the search was instantly on for a trained medic who had completed the Canungra training, and someone remembered me.

I packed my gear, and walked across the road, where I met and talked to a couple of diggers I had trained with at Puckapunyal. They directed me to the RAP, where I met the RMO, Captain Tony White, and the Hygiene Sergeant, SSGT Ayb Brown. Ayb took me under his wing, and quickly organised for me to have an airline ticket available for me to collect at Victoria Barracks in Sydney (for travel Adelaide/Sydney). I then drove into Sydney, collected the tickets, drove home to Adelaide, had about three days leave, then flew back to Sydney, and that night was on board a Qantas plane with some of the last 5 RAR members enroute to Saigon, then Vung Tau (VT), May 1966.

At our sandhill base in VT, I reported to the temporary RAP, and again met Mick Seats, together with Ayb Brown and our boss, RMO Tony White. From here on forward, I was in fairly constant contact with these three men, particularly Tony White, whom I usually accompanied when “out bush”. Back at Nui Dat Base, when it was established, it was Mick Seats I was mainly working with, and I learnt quickly to do my job proficiently under his watchful eye.

He certainly let me know if I “screwed up” but was quietly full of praise for a job well done. As stated above, under his gruff appearance, he showed a fatherly and caring attitude to me, and I respected him greatly for it. He became my army father figure, and my whole Vietnam experience was enriched working under him, our RMO, Tony White, and SSGT Ayb Brown (not that I had a lot to do with him except in base).

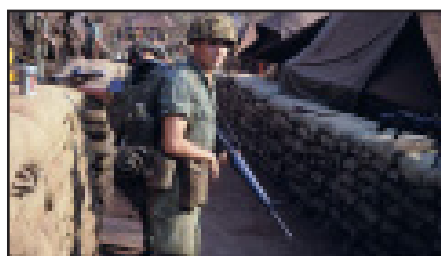
Being very much the Battalion’s “junior” medic, I often relieved the other company medics when they wanted a little time at RHQ, so I was temporarily attached to all four rifle companies and Support Company. I formally relieved the D Coy medic about February ’67, and with that company, spent the last months in country helping to develop The Horseshoe base.

I was sorry to hear about the recent passing of SSGT Mick Seats, and will let others relate Mick’s military life, which included WW2 service. But, I will say that I had genuine affection for this long serving, capable and efficient senior Australian NCO. I have re-established contact with both Tony White and Ayb Brown, and we exchange greetings occasionally.

Although I did not think of it at the time: because 5RAR was the first infantry battalion committed to Vietnam with national servicemen in it from the first intake and, as all the other 5RAR medics were regular army, I became the first “Nasho” RAAMC company medic to serve with an infantry unit in Vietnam, an honour of which I am very proud.



Ian's makeshift CAP at entrance to The Horseshoe.



Ian outside his RAP on Nui Dat on morning of move to Horseshoe.



Ian about to go on first leave from base 66.



18 AUGUST 2019

Vietnam War including Battle of Long Tan Commemorative Service

On Sunday the 18th of August 2019 the RAR Assoc. SA will conduct its annual Vietnam War Service including the Battle of Long Tan Commemorative Service in its clubrooms at 13 Beatty Street, Linden Park.



The Service will commence at 11am and will be of 50 minutes duration followed by a light lunch of a sausage sizzle with salads.

The Service will commemorate all of the Australian losses in the Vietnam War and will be multi-unit in format with the:

- RAR Association - Commemorative Address.
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50th Anniversary of Operation Overlord including the Battle of Long Khanh

Greetings All, Change of plan.

I have had discussions with Paul Nothard Commemorations DVA this am on the conduct of our proposed service 16/17 October 2021. He explained to me that as there was another planned service for Operation Ivanhoe or the Battle of Nui Le in late September it was necessary if DVA were to conduct ours it would have to be in June.

DVA prefer to conduct a commemorative service on the day of battle so we agreed on the 7th June 2021 as the most appropriate day of the battle. I realise this is a Monday and may not be suitable for all but Tony Cox and I believe we must accept that the conduct of this service under arrangements of DVA relieves 3RAR Second Tour Vietnam of considerable financial and conduct obligations. All addressees are involved and I hope all will participate.

There is a flow on effect on the proposed dinner and AWM Last Post service, travel and accommodation which is understood. We hope you will all accept this as the most appropriate arrangements for this 50th Anniversary our most significant operation of our tour. The end of tour anniversary could be incorporated into the dinner.

Tony Cox will be sending out detailed changes to a wider audience ASP which he hinted at in his recent email.

For the video hyperlink re: 2019 Commemoration of Binh Ba.

Please view this coverage of the Battle of Binh Ba Thursday 6 June as the format we can expect for our service: <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/battle-of-binh-ba-50th-anniversary>

We regret the inconvenience this change of date will cause but hope you can change your plans without any difficulty.

Best wishes, Peter Scott



Commander of an Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) of B Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, keeps a sharp look out into a banana plantation on the roadside near Binh Ba.

Helping everyone - the National Royal Australian Regiment Corporation

RAR SA members have all heard and/or read about information regarding the RAR National body from our President Michael von Berg's comprehensive reports. Here are the background details about the organisation written on 7 October 2018 by Trevor Dixon, the Company Secretary.

The Royal Australian Regiment Corporation, traditionally known nationally as The Royal Australian Regiment Association (RARA) is an incorporated Company which functions as the peak representative body of its constituent members, the RAR State/Territory and Battalion Associations/Corporation.

It was formed in 2009 to:

Enhance and protect the legal rights and limited liability of its members,

Broaden the opportunities previously not available to an unincorporated entity,

Appoint a Board that is democratically elected and subject to current best practice corporate governance and management.

PURPOSE

The Corporations purpose, as written in its Constitution and expanded in its By-Laws, is to provide co-ordination on a National basis for the activities of its Members when such co-ordination is necessary.

This includes:

Fostering and protecting the interests of its Members and their members and their families in any matter likely to be relevant to them during or after their service in the Royal Australian Regiment;

Providing advice and guidance to the Members and their members;

Perpetuating the close bonds of comradeship and esprit de corps created by service in the Royal Australian Regiment;

Preserving the memory of those members of the Regiment who have died on active and overseas service;

Representing the interests of the serving and ex-serving members of the Regiment and their families at national level;

Planning, organising and developing benefit services and conducting events related to the Members and the Regiment;

Developing and representing, the Members view on matters of interest to appropriate parties on National Matters;

Conducting fund raising activities on National Matters; and

Fostering, promoting and supporting the formation and growth of Members without in any way impinging on the internal management of their organisation.

To achieve its purpose the Corporation may enter into a relationship with any other organisation whose purpose/objects are compatible with ours..

STRUCTURE

The Corporation is governed by a Board of Directors and a National Council of its Members. The National Council comprises the Presidents of the RAR State/Territory Association Branches and the Battalion RAR

Associations.

THE BOARD

Michael von Berg MC OAM – Chairman. Michael is the President of the SA Branch of the RAR Association. He served with 5 RAR in Vietnam and has had broad and extensive experience in international and national business activities. He lives in Adelaide.

Hori Howard AO MC ESM – Director. Hori is the immediate past Honorary Colonel Commandant of the Royal Australian Regiment. After many years in the Army was the Director of the NSW State Emergency Service. He maintains an active involvement in ES. He lives in Austinmer NSW.

Pat McIntosh AM CSC – Director. Pat is the Chairman of Bolton Clarke (formerly RSL Care + RDNS Ltd), Altura Learning, RDNS NZ and RDNS Hong Kong. He has extensive experience in finance, training and operational and strategic planning. He lives in Brisbane.

Trevor Dixon – Company Secretary. Currently undertaking full-time post-graduate studies, Trevor is also the Managing Director of a number of commercial enterprises. He is an advisor to the board of the DFWA, Chairman of his local High School Council and has previous experience including appointment as Company Secretary to another national not-for-profit as well as the immediate past president of his local RSL Sub-Branch. He lives in Brisbane.

RARA PATRON

The Corporation currently has both a Patron and Co-Patron:

Patron – **General Sir Phillip Bennett** AC, KBE, DSO, and

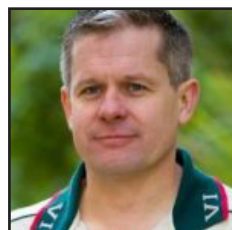
Co-Patron – **Lieutenant General Peter Leahy** (Ret'd) AC

NMW PATRON

Patron of the National Memorial Walk (NMW) – **Major General Stuart Smith** (Ret'd), AO, DSC



Michael von Berg, Hori Howard and Pat McIntosh



Trevor Dixon, Peter Leahy and Phillip Bennett



Members of 5RAR from both tours and our newest members who have served in Afghanistan gather together after the march in Adelaide in 2019. The National President of the 5RAR Association Roger Wainright, from Sydney was visiting family in Adelaide, joined us for the day.



Bob Hutchinson, met up with Spike Dwiir, Barry Ryan and Moose Dunlop for the first time since returning from SVN March 1970. Bob, Barry and Moose were Plt Commanders of B Company during 5RAR's second Tour, Bob was in Adelaide for the 50th Anniversary reunion of his graduation passing out parade from Scheyville, 1968, held at the Grand Hotel, Glenelg



A great way to treat Post Traumatic Stress (formerly referred to as PTSD)



Members

I am writing to bring attention of military service organisations and veterans suffering post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) the differences caring for a trainee guide (Seeing Eye) dog can make to veterans.

I served as a company medic (RAAMC) with 5RAR (1st Tour) in Vietnam from May 1966 to May 1967 and treated a number of badly wounded men.

One of these diggers was Trevor Lynch from South Australia. Trevor was blinded and terribly maimed following a mine explosion incident in October 1966. He survived and went on to lead a productive life, during part of which he had the services of a trained guide dog.

I was diagnosed with severe PTSD in January 1997 and was forced to retire. I suffered extreme depression, frequent and debilitating panic attacks, avoided crowds, had a very low self-esteem and have been under the care of a psychiatrist since 1997.

After some years of treatment, I gradually started performing voluntary work, starting with fire spotting in the CFS at the Mt Lofty Fire Tower overlooking Adelaide and the central Mt Lofty Ranges.

After some 10 years, knee surgery forced me to abandon this activity, and I became involved as an emergency dog carer for Guide Dogs SA/NT.

I had always had my own dogs, but now with the time and desire to "go bush" periodically with a 4WD club, having my own dog meant having to board it out on occasions, so I thought about caring for dogs on a periodic basis, and guide dogs were the obvious choice.

In the past seven years or so, I have cared for some 30 dogs for varying lengths of time – from a long weekend to about three months.

Apart from one young pup, all the dogs have been adults. I personally requested to only take the older dogs as my knee replacements may make caring for a young pup difficult. All have been Labrador Retrievers, male or female, black or golden. Several have been fully trained while others had not commenced their formal training. My psychiatrist, my wife, Kate, and I all became aware of changes in my depression and panic attacks in the past six years or so – the later have eased to the extent that they seldom bother me now. I personally put these changes down to caring for the dogs which I can take nearly anywhere with me – restaurants, medical appointments, etc. I have become aware that the general public on seeing the dog are far more interested in it than in me, which has given me the confidence and positive attitude to go anywhere.

- Ian McDougall, RAAMC 5RAR 1st Tour

TRACKERS - The untold story of the Australian dogs of war

Author: Peter Haren. Reviewed By David Wilkins
Caesar's ears shot out, he went rigid, his body froze.

These words describe the final phase of a "track" where the war dog gives his troops the tactical advantage of surprise over the enemy. It is also within minutes or maybe just seconds of a ferocious jungle battle.

The author, infantryman, Private Peter Haran, was holding the lead to Caesar, as he did throughout most of this excellent book.

I found this account of Australia's tracking dogs in South Vietnam to be both enthralling and moving. This is very much because Peter Haran is an outstanding storyteller. Indeed this is one of the most compelling publications I have read on the Vietnam War and I didn't put it down until I finished it.

The author's graphic portrayal follows his involvement as the dog handler, initially of the rogue, Damian, and then of the larrikin Labrador-Kelpie cross, Caesar, from the time of his early training days in the Tracking Wing at Ingleburn's School of Infantry and on the austere and

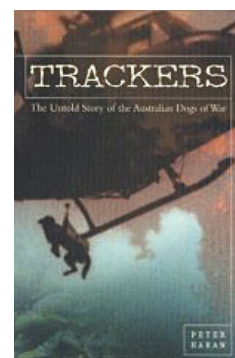
rugged Helensburgh training range, to the highly dangerous combat operations against the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces in the jungles of South Vietnam.

Told in the typical colourful language of the Aussie digger, this gritty story tells of relationships and bonds between man and dog, particularly the author and his mate, Caesar, as well as between fellow visual trackers/handlers and between their respective dogs.

It is interesting, stirring, amusing, and most of all it is engrossing.

The Tracking Wing had a short life from 1966 till the end of Australia's involvement in this war, but its products of tracking teams, visual trackers, war dogs and their handlers had a major impact upon infantry operations against the enemy.

Continued page 12



The 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, South Australia Association

Overview

The 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment SA Committee functions as an organisation out of the RARSA RSL Sub-Branch at 13 Beatty Street, Linden Park.

2019 has been another good year for the 3rd Battalion Association, although younger memberships is still a problem and has remained reasonably static over the past few years.

We continue to conduct functions and commemorative services around our conflicts of Korea :- Kapyong, Marayong San and Vietnam:- Coral Balmoral and Long Khanh.

2019: Unfortunately, this has left us with the challenge of trying to find more 3 RAR Committee Members for meetings this year but we are still operating well.

We have many members who are away on trips and holiday to the sunnier and warmer parts of the world.

We have also had a few who have passed away in the past year due to illness and age- from Korean Vets to our Vietnam vets, and younger.

Membership

3 RAR SA has 245 financial members which is 88% of our membership.

Thanks to David White and Nevil and Margaret Cooper who contacted our members who were not up-to-date with their membership by calling and writing to them, many have renewed for five years.

We are sure we will pick up a few more soon. We, as have many organisations, are still having problems attracting new and younger members.

DVA has changed the dates for our commemorative service in Canberra in October 2021 from when we came home to 7 June 2021, which is the actual 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Khanh.

It will be conducted in line with the recent service for the 5 RAR Battle of Bin Ba. With the DVA taking on many of the activities the load has been eased on our National organiser Tony Cox of Dapto, NSW, and Cliff Fletcher B Coy Mildura and others.

Thanks to Colonel Peter Scott who has contacted Hilary Maddocks, researcher, Philatelic, Australia Post, they will be producing a pre-stamp envelope or prepaid envelope for our 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Khanh. We are required to come up with the design. Perhaps a helicopter over a few diggers.

We will be conducting a Commemorative Service for the Battle of Maryang San on the Sunday 6 October 2019 with the actual battle on the 7 October 2019.

Another 3 RAR quiz day is planned for October on a date to be announced. We will put the challenge to all the other battalion associations, with these quiz days raising vital funds of around \$500 each time.

Key Office Bearers since the AGM in March:

Patron: Col Peter Scott DSO

President: Jeffrey Barrett (Jeff)

Vice President: Robert Whelan (Bob)

Secretary: Carol Van Der Peet

Treasurer: Adrian Craig

Commemorative Officer: Adrian Craig 3 RAR and RAR South Australia

Editor Intouch newsletter: Jeffrey Barrett.

Conclusion

Our Association is in a stable position due to a few dedicated hard-working members. Thanks them for their dedication and hard work, and in particular Carol Van Der Peet, Adrian Craig, Neville Cooper, Bob Whelan Colonel Peter Scott and other Members for their wonderful support of unwavering efforts behind the scene.

Jeffrey Barrett
President
16 July 2019



The male trek will be conducted at Moolooloo in the North Flinders Ranges from 15 to 20 September 2019. There is no female trek in SA in 2019 but women can join the Queensland treks.

For information, nomination and completion of the other admin required before arrival please contact:

POC SA Male Trek: Greg Hallam

Mobile 0419 312 884

greg@chillingout.com.au

If you're interested in attending you need to look at the following forms.:

General Instructions (will download as a Word file)

Personal and medical information (will download as a Word file)

D Company 5RAR 66/67 Vietnam Veterans Day-2019

Bryan and Madeleine O'Donnell will host a **5RAR D Coy 10-11 12 Platoons** (first tour) reunion for a weekend in Goolwa from Friday to Sunday, August **16-18** which is the Vietnam Veterans Day weekend.

There will be about 40 or so present for their reunion to enjoy fellowship and sightseeing culminating with Services on Vietnam Veterans Day the Sunday.

There will be a two-part commemoration:

The first service be at **9.30am** at the **Dog Memorial** on Admiral Terrace, Goolwa, south side of the railway line immediately south of the pedestrian crossing over the railway line.

The second will be at the **Goolwa RSL Memorial Gardens** at **11am**. The formal Commemoration Ceremony will be followed with a barbecue lunch for \$10 a head.

We wish them well for their Reunion.

Royal Australian Regiment Association Committee 2019-2020

Patron Laurie Lewis AM

Elected Positions

President Michael von Berg MC OAM 0411 870 055
mvb@michaelvonberg.com

Vice President Rod Graham 0427 977 145
rodg2@bigpond.com.au

Secretary Jim Stopford 0400 191 801
jbstopford@bigpond.com

Treasurer and Webmaster Mike Bevan 0416 106 578
mikeb3@netspace.net.au

Appointed Committee Positions

Manager - Club Greg Dwiar 0412 644 749
gregdwiar@gmail.com

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

Welfare Officer Vacant

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

Trojan's Trek Director Moose Dunlop OAM 0408 088 886
moose@trojanstrek.com

Voluntary Positions

Manager - Bar Vacant
Editor - Infantryman Penelope Forster 0419 856 946
penelopeforster01@gmail.com

Battalion Representatives

1 RAR John Genovese genovese@bigpond.net.au 0403 010 180

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

2/4 RAR Kim Porter yrtnafni51@gmail.com 0417 468 186

3 RAR Jeffery Barrett gadgetbarrett@gmail.com

4 RAR Chris Pepper chrispepper73@icloud.com 0406 830 228

5 RAR Mos Hancock moswhan@bigpond.net.au 0414 566 212

5/7 RAR Chris Shannon thinktank2002@hotmail.com 0414 797 250

6 RAR Bill Wallace wallace46@bigpond.com 0418 529 181

7 RAR Robert Whinnen whinnens@gmail.com 0413 189 558

8 RAR Ted Forward adrienne.ted.forward@gmail.com 8235 1625

9 RAR Adrian Craig as.craig9rar@bigpond.com 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

Email: rar01@internode.on.net

Friday nights August - December 2019			
DATE		MEAL	BAR
AUGUST	2	Light Meal	Adrian Craig
	9	Family Friday 3 Course Menu	Bob Whinnen
	16	Light Meal	Tim Kara
	23	Light Meal	Spike
	30	Light Meal	Wheels
SEPTEMBER	6	Light Meal	Jeff Barrett
	13	Family Friday 3 Course Menu	Bob Whinnen
	20	Light Meal	Adrian Craig
	27	Light Meal	Tim Kara
OCTOBER	4	Light Meal	Spike
	11	Family Friday 3 Course Menu	Bob Whinnen
	18	Light Meal	Wheels
	25	Light Meal	Jeff Barrett
NOVEMBER	1	Light Meal	Tim Kara
	8	Family Friday 3 Course Menu	Adrian Craig
	15	Light Meal	Spike
	22	Light Meal	Wheels
	29	RAR Xmas drinks Guests	Jeff Barrett
DECEMBER	6	Light Meal	Adrian Craig
	13	Light Meal	Tim Kara
	20	RAR members Xmas Dinner	Bob Whinnen
Closed--Reopens 10th January 2020			

TRACKERS - The untold story of the Australian dogs of war

Continued from page 10

Anyone who experienced the benefit of having these trackers available to assist in pursuing a withdrawing enemy will not only enjoy this book thoroughly but will also gain a more intricate knowledge of how these courageous specialists at the sharp end executed their skills. I can also recommend this book to those soldiers further from the infantryman's battles, as well as to those who have never worn a soldier's uniform, as it will help bridge that gap of knowledge, which for non-combatants, is near impossible to otherwise comprehend.

For members of 5RAR, this book will reignite your own memories of your exploits with the tracker dogs, Caesar (who was handed on to other battalions following the author's tour of duty with him in 2RAR), Juno and Justin.

Infantryman criteria

Articles and photos are always welcome. Email to President Michael von Berg at mvb@michaelvonberg.com and Editor Penelope Forster penelopeforster01@gmail.com for consideration.

MUST: Copy in 10pt Word. Photos separately as jpgs. Subject line for article and photos should match. Always include the word "Infantryman" plus one or two words.

Phone Nos: (08) 1123 4567 - four numbers then space then four numbers. Mobiles XXXX XXX XXX - four numbers (space) three numbers (space) then three numbers).

Numbers: 1 to 9 in words one, two, three etc. then 10 onwards numbers. Also 1st, 2nd etc. Dates must include the day of the week. Dates: Saturday March 10 - but when year added Saturday 10 March 2018 so numbers don't clash. Thanks - Penelope Forster, Editor