



INFANTRYMAN

The Journal of the RAR Association SA
Keeping the Spirit Alive

April 2020

STOP PRESS

Coronavirus cancels Anzac Day, closes Clubrooms, postpones events

In line with current public health advice and the demographics of our membership, the committee has decided to cease operations at Beatty Street with immediate effect.

We believe we do not have the facilities or capacity to ensure the health and safety of both volunteers and visitors. Notwithstanding the disruption to the club it is the responsible thing to do.

Unless the health situation changes, we expect to remain closed till Friday 8 May 2020. We hope to have a clearer picture of the health issues before the end of April and any decisions on re-opening will be communicated ASAP. This in effect means :-

- The committee meeting of 20 March has been cancelled. The next meeting is tentatively set for Friday 15 May.
- The Greek Night of 8 May will be rescheduled.
- The Regimental Dinner (given organisational logistics) will be postponed indefinitely.

In the meantime you would also been advised that Anzac Day parades, ceremonies and commemorations have

been cancelled which is a disappointment for many as it's a once a year rallying point for our membership, but the safety of all is paramount.

There is nothing to stop us having our own small family lunch or BBQ with a small group to remember our fallen and to respect this national day.

In the meantime we will keep the pulse of the organisation going by convening committee and other management issues via Zoom telephony systems and I would hope all members within your immediate social circle keep in touch with one another to ensure all are well and if any help is needed.

This is a critical period for the nation and we as an organisation will do everything possible to ensure we take the appropriate precautions, keeping hopefully all safe; keeping you informed as best we can and most importantly staying in touch with each other to keep the values and the spirit of our Regiment alive. - MvB

So Members and friends are able to keep in touch during the coronavirus outbreak, Michael von Berg is setting up a Zoom account. See page 3



Fred Fairhead (right) shows his new book, "Long Tan: A Reappraisal" to Ken Duthie and Rod Graham holding his dog Gus in the RARA clubrooms, Linden Park where The books are available by filling out the order form on page 6 .



Peter Scott signs a copy of his new book "The Forgotten War" for his friend Colonel Annette Summers AO RFD at the launch of his new publication on February 25 at Torrens Parade Ground. More page 7.

Our RARA writers launch new publications



ANZAC DAY, ADELAIDE, 1987.

As this year's ANZAC Day marches and many ceremonies were cancelled because of the coronavirus these photos from the 1987 march in Adelaide have been included as a tribute to the occasion. Apologies to the person who submitted them as the details have disappeared.



FROM THE COMMAND POST

Transition needs thought about life after service

Mental health and wellbeing of veterans is still top of the agenda and, although there is still much to do, there have been considerable improvements in the transition space by the ADF and DVA.

Transition can be a traumatic experience for some who are being discharged for medical reasons and others whose contracted period of service is up and who have not given much thought to life after service.

Gainful employment is essential providing they are medically able to do so and in many instances our young men and women who separate from the ADF sadly sell themselves short in what they have achieved in service and the "soft skills" they bring to the table of any potential employer.

The ability to communicate; teamwork, adaptability, problem solving, creativity, work ethic, interpersonal skills, time management, leadership and attention to detail are all skills that ADF members engages in on a daily basis and these skills and qualities are in demand by all employers.

The recent Australian Defence Veterans Covenant, hopefully will lift the profile of veterans and their service and we must be mindful that this Covenant, although legislated in Parliament, is not a Covenant by the Parliament. It is a Covenant by the Australian people, including potential employers.

Further education opportunities for veterans have been recognised as a very important element of the transition space. But again many separating ADF members do not pursue this opportunity because they don't believe they have the necessary education for further education which is a fallacy.

Flinders University has developed a marvellous opportunity where the four-week Military Academic Pathway Program or MAPP for military personnel was held in late 2019.

On successful completion students apply to enter first year of a Flinders University degree.

The program is specifically designed to assist military personnel transition successfully into university, both academically and socially.

The program covers a wide range of academic skills development, but also provides campus tours,

facilitated engagement with support services, linking with peer mentoring, and academic advocacy.

The program is open to Australian Defence Force veterans, including personnel still serving, those in the process of transition, and for people who have already left the military.

If you successfully complete the Military Academic Pathway Program and submit a written applicant statement and evidence of military service, you will be considered for admission to Flinders University undergraduate degrees.

I recently attended a symposium at Flinders University to address veterans and further education and met some of the impressive young veterans who are currently studying at the University in various faculties who have come through the MAPP program.

One young ex -infantryman is currently studying an Engineering and Robotics double degree which I found very impressive.

All young people currently studying spoke very enthusiastically about the program, opportunity and their current studies.

Another program Flinders is promoting is a "Recovery through Archeology" program of taking veterans up into the outback for some diggings where some who are not suited to office type work might get a liking for some of the archeological sciences where Flinders University has a world class reputation.

I find this all very exciting as an opportunity for veterans where it provides focus, direction, sense of purpose and a future which is just so important in the mental health space.

A link for the MAPP is listed here <https://www.flinders.edu.au/study/pathways/military-veterans>

What ask of you is to get the word out and encourage our veterans to participate if that is something which interests them.

The ADF has part funding for this and I am currently seeking support from DVA so we will see where this opportunity takes us. We don't have a GI Bill and not likely to get one so this in my view is as close as we can get at this time. - Michael von Berg MC OAM



Hi all,

I hope you are all well and either ensconced at home or out on the bay in your fishing boat.

Without question the committee made the right decision in closing the club down but I am not keen in closing the communications channels down.

It's important we maintain contact and to that end I am in the process of setting up a Zoom account and when that is done I will let you know.

Even if there are no serious issues which need discussions and resolutions, we can just touch base and have a chat.

Unfortunately my software is playing up at the

moment and I'm waiting for the Microsoft engineer look at it so I won't be able to set up Zoom till after that.

My webcam is not talking to Windows 10 for some reason. Should have stayed on 7 but c'est la vie I hope this finds you all well. Take care of yourselves. We are all in that critical demographic and suggest you get your flu shot as soon as they are available in early April.

In the short term we are all still on our mobiles so if a problem or just want to have a chat, call.

Duty First. Cheers - Mick

Anzac Day 2020 can be commemorated in many smaller ways

Who would ever have thought that a traditional ANZAC Day March, to gather and commemorate all our fallen and to reconnect with our fellow warriors in Australia, would ever be cancelled?

Not in my lifetime or what's left of it, but if that's what we need to do, no matter how unpalatable, to keep us all safe then there is no option.

There will be a very small Dawn Service at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra and there will also be an Adelaide Dawn Service with only a small group in attendance and with the current grouping restrictions there will be no access to the public.

This is still to be confirmed as it's still a moving target, but in attendance will be the Governor, Premier, Leader of the Opposition, two Federal Senators representing the Federal Government and the three Service Representatives. There will be no ESO participation. At this stage it is anticipated the small service will be televised by the ABC at the normal starting time of 0600hrs, but that television support is still to be confirmed.

Many of you I am sure are planning and preparing for your own small Dawn Service at your homes and the best way to do that, no matter what you are planning,

is to listen in to the ABC telecast or radio services and the Last Post and one minutes silence followed by the Reveille.

There has been a suggestion that at that time there will be families standing in their respective driveways with a candle as a mark of respect and I am sure many of you may care to commemorate in that way and it is encouraged.

Where we are down here at Sellicks Beach, we are pretty isolated, so I intend to get dressed as I normally do with collar and tie and medals, drive down on to the beach (which we can do here) wind the windows down to hear the last post and minutes silence while looking over the ocean to my north west where our nation lost so many over the last 100 years. That done, home for a gunfire breakfast, followed by a quiet day, reflecting and relaxing in our isolated state and happy that in our own small way we have managed to remember those who have fallen and in more recent times no longer with us. I encourage you all to commemorate ANZAC Day in whatever way you feel comfortable with to not only remember those mate who have fallen but importantly to keep the Regiments and our own spirits alive!

DUTY FIRST.

MEDIA RELEASE Monday, 16 March 2020

Health and stimulus packages support veteran community

THE Government is doing everything it can to protect our nation from the health and economic impacts of this global health issue, including veterans and their families.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said veterans and their families will benefit from the Government's commitment of \$2.4 billion to bolster the nation's health system in response to COVID-19 as this situation evolves.

"The health package allows older and at-risk veterans to access some health consultations and assessments remotely, via video or phone where video is not available," Mr Chester said.

"In the event veterans are in home isolation or from a vulnerable patient group, they will also be able to have their Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS) prescriptions filled online or remotely and have their medication delivered directly to their home.

"This ensures vulnerable veterans can access the health care they need while limiting the risk of exposure.

"Veterans in residential or home care will be supported by the Government's commitment of over \$100 million to upskill and increase the numbers of aged care staff and nurses."

In addition, more than 225,000 veterans and their dependants will benefit from the \$17.6 billion stimulus package announced by the Government yesterday.

"Many of our veterans receive benefits through the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and the stimulus package announced by the Prime Minister and Treasurer will support our veteran community through this challenging time," Mr Chester said.

"Those veterans or dependants who receive income support or compensation benefits through DVA as listed below and who are currently residing in Australia, will receive the one-off payment of \$750.

"The payment will be automatically paid into bank

accounts and will come from DVA or Services Australia, however, recipients are encouraged to confirm their bank details are current and up-to-date by calling DVA on 1800 555 254.

"The Government is committed to putting veterans and their families first, particularly with regards to the health and economic impacts of this global health issue."

Payments will be made to the following groups from 31 March 2020, with the majority of payments to be made by 17 April 2020.

Recipient: Service Pension; Income Support Supplement; Age Pension and Wife Pension paid by DVA; DVA Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders; Disability Pension; War Widow(er)'s Pension; Wholly Dependent Partner payment; Special Rate Disability Pension; Permanent Impairment compensation under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004; Permanent Impairment compensation under the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988; Veteran Payment; and Gold Card holder.

There will be one payment per eligible recipient, which will be tax free and will not count as income for Social Security, Farm Household Allowance and Veteran payments.

In addition to the stimulus and health packages, more than 30,000 veterans and their families will benefit from cuts to deeming rates as announced by the Minister for Families and Social Services, Senator the Hon Anne Ruston, which will start flowing through to bank accounts from 1 May 2020.

Further information on the Government's COVID-19 health commitment can be found at www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert

- Office of the Hon. Darren Chester, Canberra ACT.

When I'm (we're) cleaning windows - from Spike, the Club Manager



I'll climb this blinkin' ladder till I get right to the top



Just before Christmas one of our members asked me if there was anything which needed doing around the club that he could help with. After giving it a bit of thought and a look around, I figured the entrance to the clubrooms needed a bit of TLC and sprucing up.

After I mentioned it needed cleaning and repainting so after the Christmas break we set dates which suited both of us - Monday and Tuesday March 17 and 18.

A good pressure wash removed the build-up dirt and grime from the paint work accumulated over the last five or so years, then we masked up the windows, sprayed on a coat of undercoat primer and a top coat of gloss paint, re painted the tiled window sills, even pressure washed the fence and concrete floor.

That member was Ian McDougall. Many thanks, Ian, for your enthusiasm for the project.

We still have the front windows to do - but that's for another day.

Pumpkin soup and tomato puree on the menu when Friday nights return

In December, after last years RAR Christmas dinner and the final cleaning up there was some sliced tomatoes not eaten, I put them in a garden bed out the back to see if they would sprout.

After a week or so had passed when the seeds started sprouting. I transferred the seedlings when they were 150mm high, kept the water up to them, they are now strong healthy plants, full of fruit, just waiting for the club to reopen when our lives get back to normal.



Club manager's wife, Heather, watering our healthy tomatoes.



The pumpkin patch starting to spread, and flower awaiting pollination then heading for pumpkin soup.



No caption necessary

You thought dogs were hard to train. Look at all the humans who can't sit and stay

Book launched then author starts another extracting for previous one

Because he is unlikely to find a publisher for the Second Edition of **A Duty Done* Fred Fairhead is now extracting individual operations from it for publication.

The first of those is his new book on the Battle of Long Tan titled *Long Tan: A Reappraisal*.

Fred believes this book is somewhat unique in that, besides providing an accurate description of the actual battle, the book also gives emphasis to the critical role the artillery had in determining the outcome.

In addition it gives emphasis to the events that occurred before and after the battle, including providing conclusive evidence that the enemy were not trying to attack Nui Dat but rather were hoping to lure a force out of Nui Dat and then to ambush it in the Long Tan Rubber.

This has been possible because of the availability of recent translations of enemy histories and by the release of material from Signals Intelligence sources .

The book is available by completing the Order Form below.

**A Duty Done* is a Summary of Operations by the Royal Australian Regiment in the Vietnam War 1965-1972 describing some 50 major operations each with accompanying maps and sketches and covering all of the 16 Battalion tours of duty in Vietnam from 1RAR in 1965 to 4RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion's last operations in 1971. It was originally published in 2014.

Order Form

Either return the form to the address below or email the details to mfred@bigpond.com

**Price: \$20.00 which includes postage and signed by the author.
(\$30 for overseas orders)**

Name:

Postal Address:

.....

Service Details

.....

.....

Payment Options

- **By EFT to: MF and DK Fairhead; BSB: 105-073; Account Number: 285110541
(Please ensure you mention your name and LTB)**

- **By cash or cheque (Payable to MF Fairhead) posted to:**

24 Hamilton Street, Erindale SA 5066

'The Forgotten War' by Col Peter Scott DSO launch by panel

On the evening of the 25th February 2020 Bob Kearney and I were honoured to be asked by Peter Scott to launch his latest literary achievement "The Forgotten War". His personal account of service in Japan and Korea 1949 to 1952 and in particular his in depth description of his involvement during the Battle of Maryang San on 3rd to 8th of October 1951 which, in my view, has not been recognised enough in the ferocity of that battle, what was achieved and the losses incurred.

There was a terrific turnout for the event at the Torrens Depot which is a testament to Peter as one of our RAR elders but importantly a keen interest in this book which recalls Peter's personal experiences but in particular the Battle of Maryang San 3-8 Oct 1951.

So many of the names in Peter's book were known to Bob and me but Bob in particular, due to his interest, work and writing of military history. Peter's book is one of the few written by what can only be described as boots on the ground by someone who was there and experienced that incredible period in their lives and now sharing it with us has simply reinforced how serious a war The Korean War was with all of its intensity and complexities.

The Forgotten War is an appropriate title for a war that needs much more recognition. The planning of international forces cooperating, supporting arms and fire, attacks, holding ground and tactically withdrawing, and most importantly the human element and heroic

actions so aptly described by Peter and the imbedded citations really does put you into some of those battles and incidents as a reader.

The launch in the form of a "pony and dog" format in a small panel discussion and questions from the gathering. Bob was the pony and I was the dog and Peter as the guest of honor answered many questions and comments raised by the panel and the audience.

In conclusion we strongly recommend this book The Forgotten War by Col Peter Scott DSO, in that it is factual, supported by many maps and photographs and considered a very easy read. Sometimes with these types of books the historian can at times write a book that is factual but somewhat impersonal. That is not the case here, where Col Peter Scott has not just written a book about battles and conflicts, but what wins and loses battles, soldiers and officers. Soldiers and officers of 3RAR who gave their all in what was an intense and dangerous war in the most difficult of conditions. Peter was delighted that the launch was attended by his son and his wife who had travelled from Europe.

The book is for sale at \$30 per copy and we recommend it to you as an accurate record of the events in Japan and Korea 1949 to 1952 but most importantly in recognition and respect for Col Scott's service and that of 3RAR, where that period of the Korean War should never be forgotten.

- Michael von Berg



Peter with his son Gary, his daughter-in-law Katarina (from Slavakia) and Graham Cornes, football and radio personality.



Royal Australian Regiment Association Committee 2019-2020

Patron Laurie Lewis AM

Elected Positions

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Secretary	Jim Stopford jbstopford@bigpond.com	0400 191 801
Treasurer and Webmaster	Mike Bevan mikeb3@netspace.net.au	0416 106 578

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Manager - Club	Greg Dwiar gregdwiar@gmail.com	0412 644 749
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Welfare Officer	Vacant	
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MEAL & BAR ROSTER

Postponed until Government restrictions permit gatherings



MUSEUM REMAINS OPEN: Due to the current health alert, the South Australian Army Museum at Anzac Highway, Keswick, will remain closed until at least Wednesday April 15. Updates regarding re-opening times will be provided on the website www.amosa.org.as as they become available.

-Museum Manager

December 2019 to February 2019

In December 2019 we had our annual Battalion Birthday/Christmas Party at our other home - the Lord Melbourne Hotel, North Adelaide.

We had a good attendance plus good fun and Father Christmas, aka Ken Duthie, gave out presents to the children who attended.

In both January and February we had our monthly lunches at the Lord Melbourne again with good attendance plus good fun.

COVID-19 Virus

The COVID-19 has had a major effect on our activities:

- ☐ Our AGM of Sunday 22 March 2020 has had to be postponed.
- ☐ Our commemorative service for the Korean War 1950-53 including the Battle of Kapyong of Friday 24 April 2020 has had to be cancelled for 2020.
- ☐ Our Drinks at the Lord Melbourne after the ANZAC Day Commemorative March has had to be cancelled for 2020. There is no March in 2020.
- ☐ Our commemorative service for the Battle of Coral/Balmoral planned for Friday 22 May 2020 has had to be cancelled for 2020.

Also our Lunch on March 20 at the Lord Melbourne was poorly attended with only seven present.

We have yet to decide on the future of our Quiz Afternoon planned for Sunday 21 June 2020. To cancel will be a pity as they are such good fun and good fund raisers but the health of those who would possibly attended has the higher priority.

3 RAR Display at the Vietnam Veterans Museum, Phillip Island

We have finished the design of our display at the Vietnam Veterans Museum, Phillip Island, and COVID-19 virus pandemic permitting it will be installed by the middle of 2020.

- Adrian Craig; Treasurer & Ceremonial 3 RAR SA

