



# INFANTRYMAN

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

August 2020

## Residents lit up the dawn in Beatty Street on ANZAC Day

**B**eatty Street residents Lit Up the Dawn with candles and wore rosemary sprigs when the RARA Burnside RSL held an ANZAC Dawn Service.

Burnside Mayor Anne Monceaux said was the best street she had seen.

An ANZAC Day Dawn Service was first held at this RSL Club in 1949 following the opening of the original Burnside RSL in 1948 before reverting to the Rose Park War Memorial Service.

The brilliant, yet somewhat brief, deep mulberry red dawn, slowly yet vividly emerging over the hills, seemingly

just in front of the car park where the Service was held, added to the aura of the occasion.

Furthermore, after the Service, the brief catch up with the residents - observing social distancing protocols - for a cuppa and ANZAC biscuit was excellent.

The residents thanked the Sub Branch / Association for the Service and also for being great neighbours with a

number stating they would not mind visiting, perhaps on a Family Friday, once the current Coronavirus social restrictions were eased and we are back operating again.

Certainly a number had strong defence force links, with one widow advising that her late husband, as a RAAF pilot, flew one of the first of the initial two Canberra bombers out to Australia.

Additionally the ANZAC badges handed out raised \$64 for the RSL's ANZAC Rosemary Appeal.

Members Brigadier (Ret'd) Lawrie Lewis AM, Colin Abel, Mal Allen and I assisted in the organisation of the Service and post-Service cuppa while observing social distancing requirements.

Additionally, thanks to Battery World for donating the candles and Tim of AllPro Audio Communications for donating the sound equipment.

Greg Dwiar,  
RARA SA Club Manager and  
Secretary RARA SA RSL Sub Branch



*At the Royal Australian Regiment Association at Linden Park a wreath was placed by Colin Abel watched by Mal Allan.*

**An RAR Association SA Combined Units Commemorative Service will be held on Friday 20 November 2020 in the RAR Association Clubrooms in Linden Park at 4pm. It will commemorate the war dead of the RAR in all of its wars, campaigns and battles since its formation on 23 November 1948 and also the war dead of units and services who have supported the RAR during that period. Full details page 2.**



# Commemorative Services during the Covid-19 pandemic

## Introduction

With the COVID-19 pandemic hitting Australia in 2020 the following commemorative services have had to be cancelled:

**24 April 2020** – 3 RAR SA The Korean War 1950-53 including the Battle of Kapyong Commemorative Service.

**25 April 2020** – ANZAC Day Commemorative March and Service at the Cross of Sacrifice. A very small Dawn Service with very limited numbers including His Excellency the Governor of South Australia was conducted at the National War Memorial, North Terrace, Adelaide.

**22 May 2020** – 3 RAR SA Battles of Coral/Balmoral Commemorative Service.

**18 August 2020** Vietnam War 1963-72 including the Battle of Long Tan Commemorative Service Cancelled and now a Commemorative Service for all of RAR War Dead 20 November 2020

On Friday **17 July 2020** the RAR Association SA Committee met and decided that in consideration of

the COVID-19 restrictions and our duty of care of those potentially attending the 18 August 2020 Vietnam War including the Battle of Long Tan Commemorative Service; especially elderly war veterans; we would cancel the Service.

However as we had to cancel our Korean War 1951-53 including the Battle of Kapyong Commemorative Service of 24 April 2020 we saw a need to commemorate our war dead of that war and decided:

To conduct a **RAR Association SA Combined Units Commemorative Service on Friday 20 November 2020**. The Service would commemorate the war dead of the RAR in all of its wars, campaigns and battles since its formation on 23 November 1948 and also the war dead of units and services who have supported the RAR during that period. The Service will be at the RAR Association Clubrooms and at pm. To hold our **Christmas Drinks** immediately after the Service about 5pm.

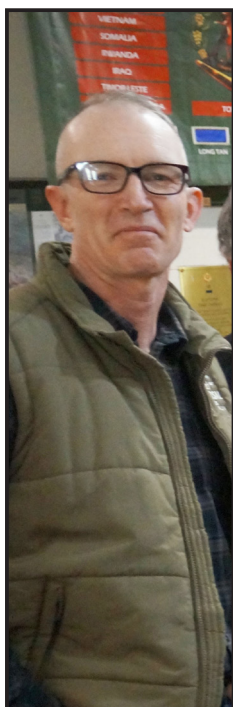
To Review the COVID-19 situation on Friday 21 Aug 2020 at our programmed monthly Meeting.

- Adrian Craig; Ceremonial

## Great atmosphere at reopening of Beatty Street



Photos: Bruce Forster



The atmosphere was once again alive and well when the Royal Australian Regiment Association opened on the evening of Friday June 5 with regulations lifted so 20 people could gather.

Club Manager Greg Dwiar did an outstanding job having cleaned the clubrooms, sanitiser at the door and set up chairs and tables with social distancing.

Colin Abel provided a simple bread, sausages and onions meal for a gold coin donation.

While old faithfuls over many years like Ken Duthie, David White, Mal Allan and Rodney Graham were there, newer members and visitors were present covering quite an age range.

Newer attendees included Dean Cook, 8 Field Ambulance; Snow Chester, Australian Army Training Team Vietnam; Ed Fatiak and Maria Capriulo, Marie ex-Army Reserves; Trevor Jones, RARA Infantry 2nd and 3rd Battalions; and Jim O'Hanlon, a former committee members and now self-employed and director of Heterodox. Also Nathan Ros, community peer advisory with Open Arms; Jo Craig and John Craig RSM 10/27th RSAR.



# FROM THE COMMAND POST

FOR THE SAKE OF MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

## Come out to the club and enjoy the company of mates

It's been one hell of a wild ride for many of us all over the last few months and I think many of us would be happy when the year 2020 is behind us.

The Corona Virus has been the principal concern with so many of us in the critical high-risk demographic, and here in South Australia we have come out of it well by national standards.

Advice from DVA has stated that some eight veterans known to them as clients have passed away which is a tragedy for them and their families, but overall as a percentage of total veterans who are receiving some form of support from DVA that total is low, considering most would be in the high risk group.

Some people have asked me why that may be so.

My theory is that as veterans of a military system, no matter what service, corps, mustering or role. you were employed in we all learned one thing in our period of service - that was discipline.

Some of us may have been better than others, but as a generalisation overall, we accepted authority and doing as we are told.

In this case the Premier, through his health experts warning us of isolation, social distancing and old folks told to stay at home, I think we all bunkered down pretty well and did what we were told for our own benefit and those others around us.

That is my theory and I am delighted by all reports from Battalion Associations our membership here in SA has

not been severely affected.

The club rooms of course where closed and our committee meetings were conducted via Zoom hook ups which, considering none of us are tech whizzes, has worked very well for us.

Many of us have had a lot of time to think and hypothesize about all sorts of things while in an isolated state and one thing is very certain - isolation and cutting yourself off is not good for the spirit or the soul.

It is also not good for your physical and mental health in that individuals who do not have a happy and productive social life and mixing in with the community tend to die earlier than those that do.

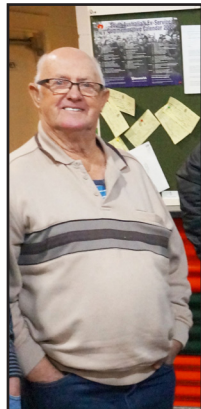
**The message is there. Come out to the Club when you can for a beer, wine, coffee or a goffer and enjoy the company of your Regimental or Battalion mates in working hard at living longer and happier.**

The spirit of our Regiment and Association is alive in all of us and we should do everything to ensure we keep that spirit and our comradeship alive.

It's been a disruptive and fractured year thus far so let's be positive and optimistic. We are all going to come out of this OK and it can only get better.

Looking forward to catching up with you all.

- Michael von Berg MC OAM



Special guests on Friday July 31 were Patrick Forbes and Peter Scott seen with David White and Rodney Graham.



# Has the world stopped caring?

This period of lock down has enabled us all to perhaps watch more TV and world news and get the feeling the world is falling apart and nobody seems to care.

It has also been a particularly good time for reading and revisiting some previously read books and writings to look at the world through other eyes and perhaps looking at resetting one's own priorities.

During this period I read several parts of an original 1802 book in my possession, *The Handbook of Police Law* In German and in Gothic Script written by my GGG Grandfather Gunther Heinrich von Berg for the Justice Chancellery of the House of Hanover, Great Britain and Ireland in 1799 to 1809.

The quotation below, although an anthropomorphic definition as to the core concept as to the sciences of the "State" and its powers, embracing all aspects of social life, written over 200 years ago, is incredibly special to me because it should define us as a people irrespective of politics, religion, ethnicity, socio economic background or demography.

It embraces so many issues still very current today. Issues either ignored or hidden in today's world through politics, self-interests, big business or simply not caring which are not making the world a better place.

***"The State is like a well-intentioned genius who carefully levels the way for those committed to his care; cleans the air that they breathe; secures the villages and holdings in which they dwell and the streets along which they walk. Protects the fields that they cultivate; secures their homes against fire and flood and they themselves against illness, poverty, ignorance, superstition and immorality; who, even if he cannot prevent all accidents, seeks however to diminish and ease their consequences and offers refuge in time of need to every pauper, casualty or person in need. Its watchful eye is ubiquitous; its helping hand is ever-ready, and we are invisibly surrounded by an unceasing care."***

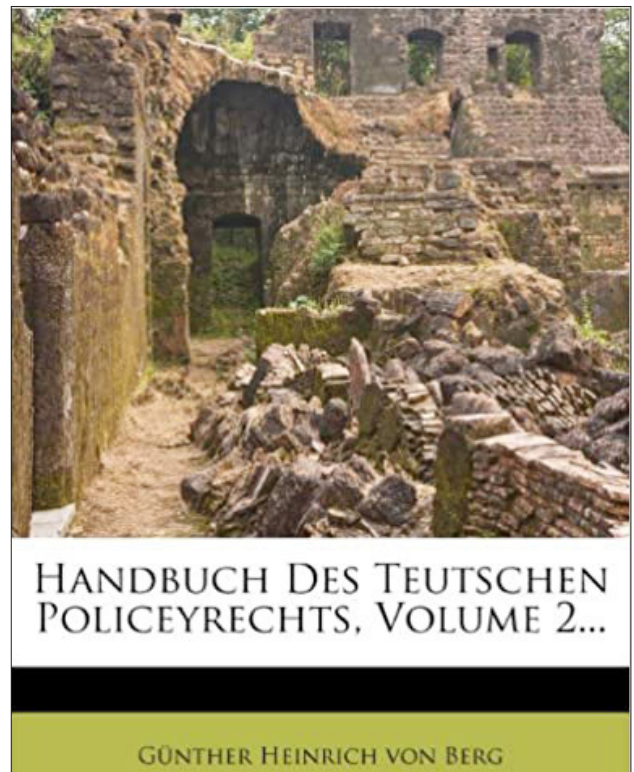
How can we not care about the air that we all breathe, in some areas of the world almost a "death sentence"? How can we not care about our chattels and assets we as individuals and our families have all worked hard to acquire and protect?

How can we not care for the police, fire fighters, ambulance operators, emergency services and members of the ADF who all help to secure us and our properties in times of fire, flood, accidents, and external threats? How can we not care for the poor, homeless, disabled, mentally and physically ill of all Australians, in particular our indigenous brothers and sisters so severely affected?

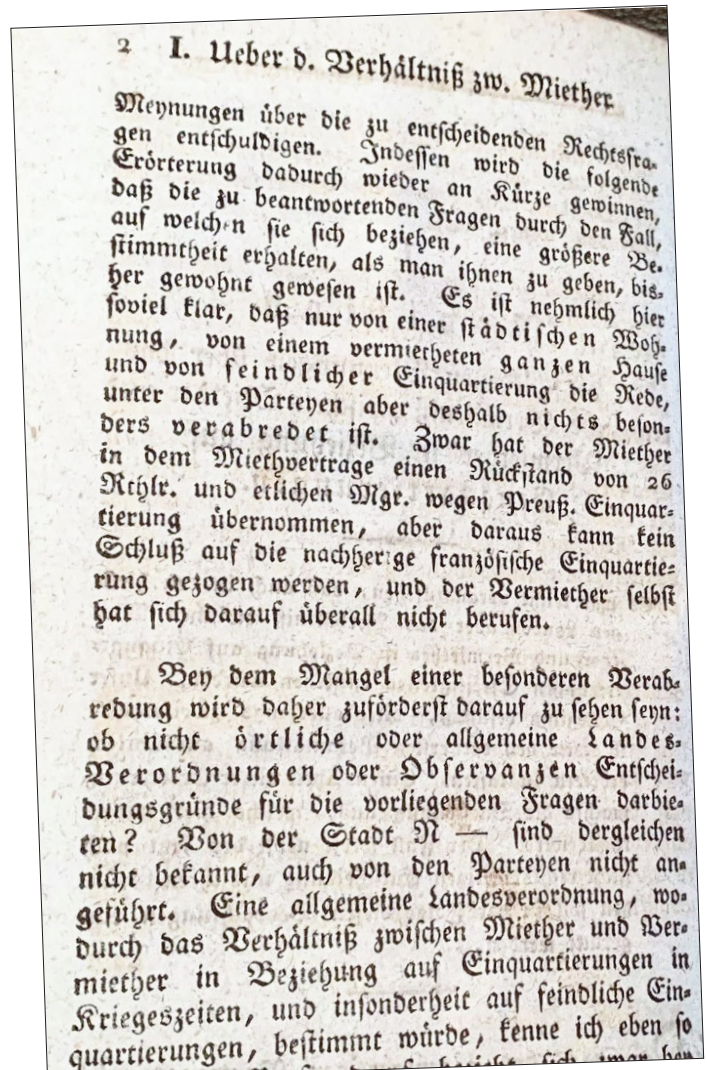
How can we not care for any individual or group in time of need, no matter what the reason?

Most of us do care because it's a part of our DNA and make up. But when you look at the world today there are so many others who frankly don't "give a sod" about anything but themselves and self-interests at national, state, corporate, organisational or personal levels.

Some groups have no knowledge of or interests in history to where that small group is hell bent on tearing down all



Cover of the reprint of the second of seven books



Pages of the original book of 1802 illustrating the German Gothic print used at that time"



statues and symbols that have anything to do with our collective history.

History, both good and bad, and hopefully we learn from the bad, but to pull down a statue that may have some negative connotations is not going to rectify the wrongs of the past or put more simply, two wrongs don't make a right.

The recent Government announcements to greatly increase the costs of Arts Degrees which includes history, philosophy, archaeology, anthropology, psychology and the study of human sciences are simply going to exasperate the ignorance of history and the human condition.

We will have a nation of mathematical geniuses and computer speak artificial intelligence nerds with no knowledge of history or the philosophy of life, so get ready for more statues to come down.

When we read the stories and teachings of the world's great philosophers - Socrates, Aristotle, Plato, Confucius, Nietzsche, Goethe, Kant, and Aquinas to name a few, - it's more a matter of searching for meaning, a greater understanding, for answers to the questions surrounding our existence, our purpose and our reason for being, and the universe itself.

If you do not know where we come from the meaning of life and the human condition, how are maths and computer science going to make you a better person and provide a better world?

Maths and computer science are both extremely important. There is no denying that because these disciplines have enormous influence on our lives, but do they influence how we think about the world, how we fit into it and how we can all make a contribution in caring about people and issues?

Personally I think the Government has made a mistake because not all Arts students are out tearing statues down. I know so many students and teachers of the arts subjects dedicated and passionate about their discipline and causes and they do care.

Individually we can all make a difference. If the rest of the world appears to have stopped caring this does not mean we all have to get on the same bus.

You would be amazed the influence that one person can have, which rubs off on others and then grows exponentially for the common good.

Gunther Heinrichs' seven books on law, the state and sovereignty, the rights of the individual, and the separation of powers between the state, the law, and the church, was written in a period of great reform in Europe and not without at the time considerable controversy.

The aristocracy and the church were determined not to cede too much power to the people where serfdom in Germany was not abolished until 1807 mainly due to the intellect and passion of likeminded reformers. There is so much to learn from history and when I read Gunther Heinrich and so many like him and the great philosophers of the past it probably explains why my political ideology is somewhat complex and ambidextrous.

## Free suicide prevention a start to Veteran Community training

**S**UPPORT for veteran health and wellbeing has been strengthened with the introduction of a free online suicide prevention training program delivered in partnership with Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling and the Returned and Services League of Australia.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester (pictured) said:

"Suicide Prevention Start is available to anyone who has contact with or supports the veteran community.

"Veterans' mental health and wellbeing is everyone's business - governments, families, friends, employers, community organisations, ex-service organisations and the broader veteran community - and we must all work together,."

"Suicide is a national tragedy that affects many of us and this free, self-paced program provides practical guidance on the signs that someone may be contemplating suicide, and how to connect them to help and support.

"Providing access to this free online training is an example of our commitment to improving the mental health and wellbeing of our veterans and their families, and I encourage all those in the ex-service community to complete this potentially life-saving training."

Delivered in two 90-minute sessions, the online training is open to all current and former ADF members with one-day continuous full-time service, their family members and anyone who has contact with or supports the veteran community."

In addition to Suicide Prevention Start, Open Arms has also developed a suite of introductory online training options including Doing Anger Differently, Understanding Anxiety, Recovery from Trauma, and Managing Pain.

For more information on Open Arms programs and services visit [www.openarms.gov.au](http://www.openarms.gov.au) or call 1800 011 046.

The Hon Darren Chester MP  
Minister for Veterans' Affairs  
Minister for Defence Personnel  
Canberra ACT Media Release  
Tuesday 7 July 2020





## THE FORGOTTEN WAR:

### A personal account of service in 3RAR in Japan and Korea 1949-1952

by Colonel Francis Peter Scott DSO Rtd



This story is the experience of a newly-commissioned 20-year-old officer, Peter Scott, into the Australian Army immediately post WW2. He arrives, with fellow graduates from the Royal Military College Duntroon, to participate in the dying days of the Occupation of Japan. The 18 months Peter spends in Japan is a mixture of

training his platoon, participating in Guards of Honour for VIPs in Kure and Tokyo and guarding the Imperial Palace and other embassies in Tokyo.

Life is made more enjoyable by the provision of Japanese to carry out the menial tasks in the battalion including a 'house girl' for the personal attention of his clothes and bedroom.

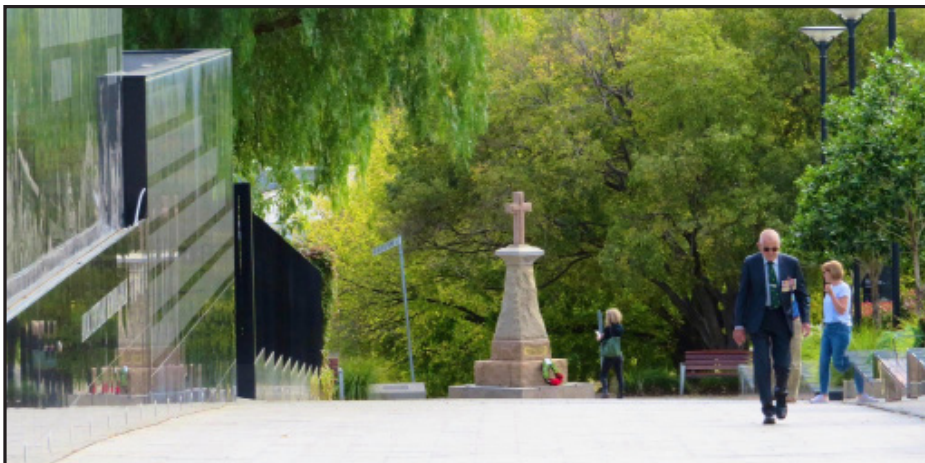
This tranquil experience is interrupted when North Korea invades South Korea in June 1950 and the Australian Government approves the dispatch of Australian Forces to assist the United Nations Force in repelling the North Korean Army.

Things get more serious when the Chinese People's Liberation Army enters the fray and the United Nations forces, under US Army command, are opposed to this threat for the next two and a half years.

Peter was involved in the most significant operation of the three-year war, 'Operation Commando' in October 1951, and was Mentioned in Despatches for his contribution.

**Copies can be ordered by contacting Peter at pscott1@internode.on.net or mobile 0405 771 267. Cost including postage and handling is \$25.00. Peter's bank details are ANZ Bank BSB 015 627 A/c 5821 07472. Please include surname and then email Peter with your postal or home address.**

## Ceremonial report including ANZAC Day 21 May 2020



*The Ceremonial Officer for the Royal Australian Regiment Association Adrian Craig at about 1050hr on ANZAC Day walking up Kintore Avenue after checking the RAR book tribute had been placed on the SA National War Memorial and RAR memorials on the Pathway of Honour.*

*Photo: Leon Pavich*

**On ANZAC Day 2020** a book tribute was laid at the Adelaide National War Memorial at about 1030 hours. The other tributes laid were about half the usual number. Commemorative Services cancelled due to COVID-19 To date the following commemorative services, both 3 RAR SA, have been/will be cancelled due to the pandemic precautions:

- a. 24 Apr 2020 - Korean War 1950-53 including the Battle of Kapyong.
  - b. 22 May 2020 – Coral/Balmoral.
- FY 2020/2021

The following commemorative services are planned to occur in finance year 2020-2021 with Budget Forecasts being sent to Veterans SA in May 2020 but will need to be

cancelled if the pandemic restrictions continue:

- a. 18 August 2020 RAR Association SA Vietnam War including the Battle of Long Tan.
- b. 9 October 2020 3 RAR SA Battle of Maryang San.
- c. 24 April 2021 – 3 RAR SA Korean War 1950-53 including the Battle of Kapyong; 70th Anniversary.
- d. 21 May 2021 – 3 RAR SA Coral/Balmoral.

The Forecast for Veterans SA grants for finance year 2020-2021 will include an element for a lunch for the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong.

A request for Ceremonial Support for 18 August 2020 will be submitted to JOSS-SA in early June 2020 and for 9 October 2020 in early August 2020.

- Adrian Craig, Ceremonial



# LONG TAN: A REAPPRAISAL

## Greatest challenge during Vietnam War recalled

### by Fred Fairhead

The Battle of Long Tan on 18 August 1966 was the greatest challenge faced by an Australian infantry company during the Vietnam War. Despite suffering significant casualties, D Company, 6 Battalion Royal Australian Regiment, succeeded in holding off a regimental-size enemy Main Force unit, comprising both North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong elements.

This reappraisal draws on several new sources including recently declassified Signal Intelligence records and translations of Vietnamese unit histories.

Initially the Australian commanders failed to act on obvious signs of an eminent large-scale enemy operation. Then, arguably the Vietnamese succeeded in luring D Company out of the defensive Australian base at Nui Dat and into Long Tan rubber plantation where an ambush was set up.

D Company responded with skilful and courageous infantry tactics but was largely saved by the intervention of artillery in what was the largest Australian artillery barrage since WW11. In failing light and heavy rain, victory was assured by the arrival of Australian reinforcements including M113 armoured personnel carriers. This allowed the battlefield to be secured against further attacks. The author, Fred Fairhead, is a Vietnam veteran with experience as a 6RAR Company Commander. He retired from the Australian Army in 1985 as a Lieutenant Colonel.

**The book is available from Fred for \$20 by contacting him on [mfred@bigpond.com](mailto:mfred@bigpond.com); direct debit to MF and DK Fairhead. BSB 105-073, ac/no, 285110541 including your name; or by cheque posted to 24 Hamilton Street, Erindale 5066.**



## What one ex-serviceman did accidentally during COVID-19 isolation

**A**round this time of year (April) I clean the house gutters and rainwater tanks in expectation of rains around the end of month.

I cleaned the tanks and decided that while I was up on second tank I would clean adjacent guttering as this section is otherwise hard to access.

Next thing I know is I'm slipping off the tank down a 2.1m triangle with sides less than 1m each. Made some noise! Eventually the neighbour hobbled out to see "What has Chris done this time".

It took him some time as he was lying on sofa with a raised leg being iced from an injury sustained at golf that morning.

After ascertaining I had not killed myself and was somewhat mobile, he collected his stepladder and, placing it adjacent to our fence, surveyed the situation. I was on my bum.

As I had left the garage door up he was able to get my ladder from the tank, take it to his side of the fence and lift it over so I could climb out.

We practiced "social distancing" which, however, could not be practiced when the other neighbour reviewed the

situation and brought out his first aid kit.

After bandaging my right middle finger and left forearm, Christie, my wife, drove me to Calvary Adelaide's new Emergency Centre where I received six sutures in my finger and eight in my forearm.

As well as a fractured sternum I possibly had fractured another rib (not one of the three or four fractured last year). Several cuts abrasions and bruises as well.

After most ceased their laughter I was told "you silly old bugger you should have known better." Could not argue with that.

At least it added interest to some folk's week.

I have managed not to do myself any additional damage. Trust all who read this are doing better.

- Chris Ashenden, 'Wounded soldier',  
7th Battalion  
Royal Australian Regiment 1967 Vietnam.





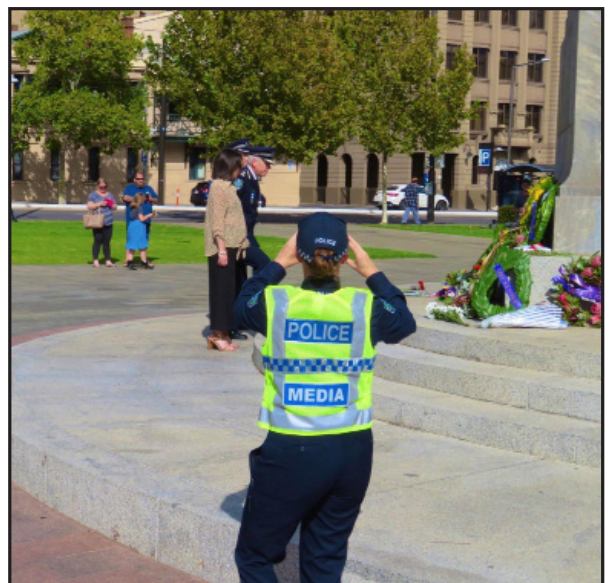
## ANZAC Day round-up from the camera of Leon Pavich



*A few tributes were placed at the War Memorial on the corner of North Terrace and Kintore Avenue.*



*Red poppies surrounding the memorial to ex-service men and ex-service women near Torrens Parade Ground*

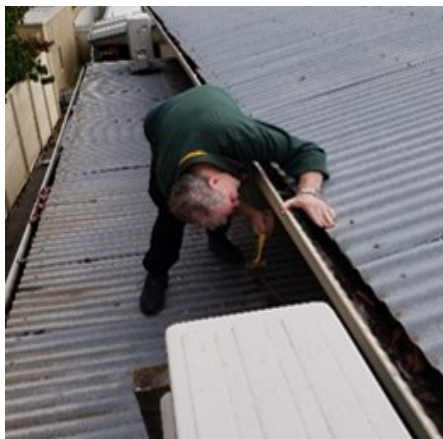


*Police Commissioner Grant Stevens and his wife Emma placing a wreath at the War Memorial on the corner of North Terrace and Kintore Avenue.*





During the shutdown due to the Covid-19 sweeping the land, normal security and maintenance had to be checked and carried out on the club premises twice a week, during that time we had heavy downpours which caused over-flow of water into our neighbours property, upon closer inspection it was noted that gutters had come away from the building, with repairs carried out by VP Rod Graham at the same time the water flow from the right side corner of the building was redirected across the front of the building to drainage which runs to the street.



A few days before re-opening Jeff Barrett came down and gave the floors a good polishing, bringing back it's lustre, all door handles, washing facilities and WC's including Computers and printer were given a good sanitizing, which has to be done before each trading night, at each club function as per Covid-19 opening stipulations.



## WANTED

We have had a lot of books donated to our library recently, most on Military History, both British and Australian, stories on conflicts involving Australian, British and American tri services, at present we have nowhere to display them, I am asking members if they have surplus bookcases they are willing to donate to the RAR. If you can help please ring Spike ([0412 644 749](tel:0412644749)), I am willing to pick up from your place, then deliver to the RAR .



## Their name liveth for evermore

**This very interesting article is from my very learned friend Bruce Cameron. He was a tank troop commander in Vietnam supporting 3RAR and was awarded the Military Cross for his leadership and courage during an operation in Vietnam in 1971.**

**- Peter Scott**

Nearly every day I have cause to pass by the Stone of Remembrance at the AWM. For some reason, today I wondered why the inscription states '*Their **Name** Liveth for Evermore*' and not '*Their **Names** Liveth for Evermore*'. The latter would seem to be more correct grammatically and also more correct in terms of referring to all the names of the fallen.



I was dimly aware that Rudyard Kipling had recommended the inscription, as he had also recommended '*Known Unto God*' for the headstones of unidentified soldiers buried on the battlefield. The Internet informed me that the inscription comes from "*Their bodies are buried in peace; but their name liveth for evermore*", which, in turn, is from Ecclesiasticus, King James version of the Bible.

So ... 'their bodies', but 'their name'. One would think that there would have to be a reason, otherwise it would be 'their bodies' and 'their names'. Is it because everyone is known unto God by one name (or am I thinking of 'One Nation unto God'?).

Given that this is a scholarly (rather than religious) question, I asked if any of those I knew had an insight into this. The responses I received included:

**"Probably a more personal message, your loved one will be remembered, not as a mass of people but him or her".**

**"Could refer in the collective sense to those sacrificed."**

While I believe both of these suggestions are correct in their own way I decided to refer to original text. This is what I discovered:

There are men who have lived a full life and reached their potential. They married and "*left a name behind them*" when they died. This 'name' was not only the

family name, but also the basket of achievements that they had accomplished, thereby building a reputation. Through their descendants, "*their praises might be reported*" to future generations.

BUT ... there are other men who "*have no memorial; who are perished, as though they had never been; and are become as though they had never been born; and their children after them*".

Their name, the one encompassing their life's achievements (the one that they did not have the opportunity to leave behind as the legacy of old men) will live on as if they had never died in their youth. People "*will shew forth their praise*" in the absence of any descendants to do so. These were not men "*renowned for their power*" or "*rich men furnished with ability*". "*But these were merciful men, whose righteousness hath not been forgotten*".

**Conclusion: "Their Name [that] Liveth for Evermore" does not only refer to the name that they received at birth, but also to the achievements, reputation, and place in the world that these young men and women could have earned should they have had the opportunity to live a full life.**

### In praise of the Infantrymen

Mal Allen found the item below on Leon Pavich Facebook page and submitted it to Infantryman for others to think about

1. Let us be clear about three facts. First, all battles and all wars are won in the end by the Infantryman. Secondly, the Infantryman always bears the brunt. His casualties are heavier, he suffers greater extremes of discomfort and fatigue than the other arms. Thirdly, the art of the Infantryman is less stereotyped and far harder to acquire in modern war than that of any other arms.

2. Who wins wars? Anybody who has fought in any of the international imbroglios (an unwanted, difficult, and confusing situation, full of trouble and problems) which have given the past half century its excitement and its discomfort knows that there is only one answer: the Infantryman.

Their dour, dogged endurance of retreat. Their's the humdrum, essential tasks of consolidation, control and pacification. What ships and artillery and aircraft with all their daring and subtlety and brilliant, cannot achieve the patient Infantryman takes as part of his job.

3. Infantry, good Infantry, is still the most important arm on the battlefield, it is therefore more important to train this arm and prepare it for the battle than to train and prepare any other arms.

4. The really high class Infantry battalion stands out, it is a thing apart. It is the most powerful thing on the battlefield, and the most deadly.

5. The standard of any army depends on the quality of its Infantry. Service in the Infantry is the most dangerous, arduous and honourable way of saving the country.

6. The actual task of the Infantryman requires from him a much higher standard of training and a much greater power to think and act for himself, and think and act quickly, than that needed by any other arms.

## Outstanding member of disappearing generation fighting his last battle

### VX41491 Sergeant Arthur Charles Scholes 2/8 Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF

*This is a wonderful article written by John Wilson, one of our ex members who has known Arthur Scholes of the 2/8 Bn 2nd AIF for most of his life. This is a synopsis of an article written about Arthur for the Sunshine Coast Daily and a very fitting tribute to an old warrior who is one of us in more ways than one. The 2/8th, disbanded since WW2, is now linked to the Royal Victoria Regiment. John Wilson, an OCS Portsea graduate ex RA Inf and RAOC, relocated to Cairns with his wife Audra for health reasons and are thoroughly enjoying their life in paradise.*



Our best friend, Arthur Scholes, who served in the 2/8 Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF, is now fighting his last battle.

I have been privileged to know Arthur all my life. He has been an inspiration to me and he and his lovely late wife, Pearl, were close friends to Audra and me when we lived in the Sunshine Coast from about 2000 to end 2003.

Like so many other citizen soldiers, sailors and airmen and women, Arthur and his best mate,

Johnny Martin, stepped up when WWII broke out to serve and defend Australia. They had successive enlistment numbers. Johnny Martin is long gone, but Arthur is still alive, aged 98, and living on the Sunshine Coast.

Arthur's story is a remarkable one.

He enlisted in the Army in Melbourne on 26 June 1940.

***"At that stage I was 18 years of age and like all young boys wanted the adventure. I put my age up two years to make sure I could go overseas because in those days the story was going around that you had to be 21. So according to the army records I am 100 years old this year but according to my mother I'm only 98."***

On 4 July 1940 he marched into the Infantry Training Battalion and on August 7 he was made Acting Sergeant.

He embarked for the Middle East on 15 September 1940 with 2/8 Bn 2nd AIF and his acting rank was confirmed on 5 December 1940.

On the morning of 21 January 1941 Arthur and his platoon attacked Tobruk along with the rest of 2/8 Bn. At the age of 19 he led his platoon through the wire and they went on and attacked Fort Pilastrino.

***"I was at the attack and capture of Tobruk and then went right through to Benghazi where I spent three months in the desert campaign. Arthur admits,***

***"I was a good soldier John, but I wasn't always a 'good' soldier."***

He admits he took an interest in the sites of Egypt and, unfortunately, lost his three stripes after being AWOL in Alexandria.

On March 31 he embarked with his unit to Greece as part of that campaign.

***"After the desert campaign I was sent over to Greece and I was in the Battle of Vevi Pass on the border of Greece and Yugoslavia in April of 1941.***

***"I was taken off Greece by a destroyer and we left***

***6000 men on the beach to go into the prisoner of war camp.***

***"I then went up to Syria on the border with Turkey, mopping up the last of the French.***

***"I spent the last of my time in the Middle East up on the Turkish border, then the Government in Australia called me back because they wanted us to defend Australia."***

The 2/8 Bn returned to Australia and Arthur disembarked on 23 May 1942.

***"They gave me seven days' leave when I arrived home from the Middle East in Melbourne and the upside of that of course is I got married in that seven days. I asked for 14 days leave to go on my honeymoon, but the Army said that they needed us up North to fight the Japs so I was only allowed seven days.***

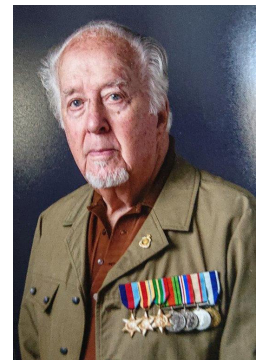
***"Pearl and I were married on 3 March 1942 and, after a wonderful week's honeymoon, I decided I really enjoyed that, so I took another week off. I didn't go back to camp when I should've, so I went AWOL and had a honeymoon with my bride."***

With his hearing badly affected by bomb blasts, Arthur's days as an infantryman were ended. He served his time in the Islands Campaign with 1AGH. He served five and a half years in the army in four major campaigns until he was discharged on 8 September 1945.

His and Pearl's is a wonderful love story. Married for more than 70 years they radiated so much love to friends and family. Arthur gave me tremendous encouragement through my Army career and they were both so supportive of Audra in her Army career. He, like many other veterans, suffered from PTS. I asked him how he coped. He said, ***"Pearl helped me, John. She would wake me up in the middle of the night and say 'Arthur, you're fighting the War again Darling.'" She got me through it."***

Arthur kept in touch with his old comrades and marched on ANZAC Day. But, sadly, he reflects, ***"all my men are gone now."*** He marched in Buderim, Queensland, for 30 years but this year he, along with us all, had to mark ANZAC Day in a different way. He told me, ***"John, it was marvellous. I walked out to the front of my place and there were all my neighbours thanking me for my service. It was very moving."***

At 98 years of age, our dear friend Arthur Scholes is approaching the end of his long life. He has colon cancer but, as in the rest of his life, he is approaching this challenge with great courage. He is one of the last WWII veterans still wearing the red and white patch of the 2/8 Bn. He is still in very good spirits, he's still got his sense of humour and he knows exactly what's happening in the world and to him. He is an outstanding member of a disappearing generation who did so much for us during WWII and after in building Australia post war. Arthur said it felt good when the war ended. ***"It's something I did, and I did well, but I wouldn't say I'd do it again," he said. "I've got good friends and I've got no enemies."***







## Samichon Day Observance

Ex 2RAR blokes (from left) Major Russell Scutchings (OPSO 10/27 RSAR); 90-year-old Lt Colonel Patrick Forbes MC (Ret'd) who served at "the Hook" (Samichon) Korea and WO1 John Craig (RSM 10/27 RSAR) walking down the Adelaide Rifles, Pathway to the Torrens Parade Ground after attending the Samichon Day Observance at the 2RAR Memorial, Pathway of Honour, Adelaide on Friday 24 July, 2020.

Major Scutchings was WO1 Craig's 2RAR platoon commander in Iraq in 2003.

Thanks (as always) to Leon Pavich for the photograph.

The "Samichon" from July 24 to 26 1953 at "the Hook", Korea Battle Honour "Samichon"

Awarded to 2RAR for the Battalion's participation in the defence of the United Nations positions on "the Hook".

Photos: Leon Pavich. Contributed by Mal Allan



## Former intelligence officer new Veterans SA Director

The State Government has announced that Ms Catherine Walsh has been appointed as the new Director of Veterans SA.

Ms Walsh, the former head of Human Resources in the federal Department of Veterans' Affairs, brings 20 years of public sector experience to the role, beginning as a military officer and moving across the Defence, Finance and Veterans' Affairs portfolios.



Premier Steven Marshall said Ms Walsh is well-placed to support the South Australian veterans' community.

"Ms Walsh has a military history with the Australian Defence Force as a Royal Australian Air Force Intelligence Officer, and her military connection continues with her Reserve service," said the Premier.

"Her passion to improve the lives of Australians every day makes her a brilliant fit for the role."

Ms Walsh said she was delighted to return to Adelaide for the role.

"I started my military career in Adelaide, where I'm looking forward to continuing my work with the veteran community and supporters over the next three years," said Ms Walsh.

Premier Steven Marshall thanked previous Director Mr Rob Manton for his dedicated service and acknowledged the work of Ms Chantelle Bohan, who has acted in the role since October 2019. Premier Steven Marshall also announced the appointment of the new Chair of the Veterans Advisory Council (VAC), Colonel Susan Neuhaus CSC (Ret'd), a distinguished surgeon and former army officer whose military career included postings in Cambodia, Papua New Guinea and Afghanistan.

"The VAC performs a very important function providing a voice for veterans, their families and carers in South Australia. I look forward to the opportunity to engage with Colonel Neuhaus and the VAC on a range of issues important to the veteran community," said the Premier.

"I would also like to acknowledge outgoing Chair, Brigadier Laurie Lewis AM. Brigadier Lewis served on the VAC since its inception in 2009, serving as the Chair for more than two years. He has worked tirelessly on behalf of veterans, their families and carers."

Ms Walsh officially commence her role on April 20





# A letter to members of the ADF from the Chief of the Defence Force to our ADF team

In October 2019 I wrote to you expressing my view that over time, allowances and conditions in the ADF have not kept pace with changes in Australian society and have become overly complex. I sought your views, experiences and innovative ideas on what modern ADF pay and conditions arrangements would look like to better support you and your families throughout your Service career and future transition to civilian life.

Some important improvements to your conditions have already been agreed and implemented since the commencement of this activity in 2019:

- On 01 July 2020, a new housing solution was introduced, providing ADF members and their families in Sydney and Canberra with more choice and flexibility by offering townhouse style accommodation as an alternative to the traditional Service residence.
- The existing house removal benefit to anywhere in Australia post-transition to civilian life has been increased from 12 to 24 months. This provides transitioning members more time to decide where in Australia they wish to settle in civilian life.
- All members posted to a seagoing vessel can now relocate their families anywhere in Australia for family or community support at Commonwealth expense. A return removal is also provided once the member is returned to a 'shore posting'.
- Long Service Leave policy has also been changed to reduce the minimum period of leave allowed to seven days, down from 15 days. This provides greater flexibility in how members manage their leave.
- ADF carer's leave has been extended to provide members access to leave to care for close relatives who may or may not live with them, in addition to dependants.
- ADF paid parental leave has been increased from 14 calendar days to 28 calendar days.
- Since I last wrote to you, the ADF has been involved in an unprecedented way in contributing to the Australian Government's response to domestic crises.

Defence's support to Australian communities following the devastating 2019/20 bushfire season through Operation Bushfire Assist, and now in response to the COVID-19 pandemic through Operation COVID-19 Assist, has demonstrated again just how adaptable, professional and capable our members are. As I said in my letter of 23 April, I am also grateful to your partners and families for supporting you during these difficult times.

These recent experiences have served to highlight



**Angus J. Campbell,  
AO, DSC**

just how important it is that we have clear and relevant ADF pay and conditions policies that are fit for purpose and meet your contemporary needs in all the different situations you are expected to serve.

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to provide feedback and suggestions in response to my October 2019 letter. Your participation has been considerable, productive and rich in ideas and sharing of personal experiences, for which I am grateful.

More than 980 people provided their feedback and ideas, and almost 500 members and partners attended tri-Service workshops held around Australia in late 2019 and early 2020.

It is clear from your feedback that there is room for improvement with the current employment offer. Many of you expressed frustration with outdated and inflexible policy relating to housing and other benefits.

Your feedback has been heard and your input is now informing work underway to address the themes raised in my October 2019 letter and reflected in your feedback. The Project team has been working closely with the Personnel areas within the Services and we will continue to engage with a cross-section of you who self-nominated to assist in the policy design phase.

I am taking a phased approach to this body of work. The first phase is examining options to:

- **Provide more flexible housing solutions to better meet your and your families' needs and offer greater choice;**
- **Contemporise the categorisation system that determines member benefits and allowances;**
- **Modernise and simplify the complex ADF allowances framework, commencing with a proposal to roll several universal ADF allowances into your base salary.**

Implementation of these reforms will commence later this year and continue into 2021.

The second phase will see the replacement of the current complex ADF allowances framework with a more streamlined model. This large body of work is in its early stages and will require your input and engagement in the near future.

If you have further feedback or ideas please send them through to [adf.employmentoffer@defence.gov.au](mailto:adf.employmentoffer@defence.gov.au). You will be able to keep track of our progress by visiting the ADF Employment Offer intranet page. I encourage you to remain engaged in this body of work and actively participate when the opportunity presents itself. This is your chance to help design a modern employment package that attracts and retains the workforce required for our current and future Defence capability and also meets your contemporary needs.

**Angus J. Campbell, AO, DSC  
General Chief of the Defence Force**





For the past 90 years Legacy South Australia and Broken Hill has been providing support and services to thousands of widows, widowers and families of ex-Australian Defence Force men and women who have given their life or their health in service of our country.

Currently there are more than 4500 beneficiaries across South Australia and Broken Hill, with most of them being widows of Second World War veterans.

There are however, still three widows of First World War veterans and 412 from the Vietnam War. The oldest widow is 108 years of age - in fact there are 72 widows more 100 years of age) - and the youngest just 36. There are 77 children receiving Legacy assistance at present – the oldest being 24 and the youngest 4, as well as 72 people with a disability.

Although numbers of Second World War widows are dwindling fast, we need to remember there have been around 65,000 deployments of Australian Defence Force personnel since the year 2000 and many of these men and women have families who will be affected by their service and may need Legacy's support in the future

Legacy protects the basic needs of individuals and families; advocates for entitlements, rights and benefits of individuals and families; assists families to cope with bereavement and helps people thrive, despite their adversity and loss.

Legacy provides a range of social activities, services and support such as holiday respite, home maintenance, assistance with utility bills, advice and assistance with claiming pensions and other Government benefits, financial counselling, legal advice, advocacy and,

sometimes crucially, just putting food on the table.

When it comes to supporting children, Legacy can provide for their dental healthcare, right through to an education allowance for every child in primary, secondary and tertiary education, as well as assisting the parent or caregiver to pay for extracurricular activities such as sport, music, drama etc. The youth support which Legacy provides is often critical, and can make a real difference to the chances a young person has of a successful career and in life in general, chances which are often diminished by the loss of a parent.

The main task falls on Legatees of which there are currently 328 plus 69 reserve members. Several staff support the work of these Legatees. Because of the need for legatees to visit widows in their home and be involved with children the selection procedure is very thorough and memberships by invitation only.

**Legacy receives a little financial support from the South Australian Government otherwise all funds needed must be raised by various fund-raising activities throughout the year. The main one is during Legacy Week in August/September when the public is asked to donate, then the annual Governor's Golf Day and Legacy Race Day at Morphettville Racecourse, various activities conducted by the sections and groups throughout the state and Broken Hill and bequests.**

Adapted by Legatee Peter Scott  
from Legacy literature dated 10 June 2020



**Youth Christmas party 2019 and above: Henley Beach Surf Club day 2018**



## Eye-catching street painting publicity for on-going work of Legacy



Wording on plaque to come from Peter



The unnamed painting executed by renowned WWII official artist, Ivor Hele, in 1970 was first used on the cover of the 1970 history of Legacy in SA, Broken Hill and NT "Fathers Anonymous" to celebrate the first 50 years of the Legacy Club.

Legatee Charles Wright, a Legatee of long standing and Club President in 1970, was a wartime colleague of Ivor Hele. When the question of a suitable cover for the book was discussed between Legatees Charles Wright and Dudley Coleman, who was a staff member of *The Advertiser*, Charles said he would ask Ivor Hele to do it.

Ivor had an enormous respect for Legacy and he immediately said yes but would not accept any gifts for his painting.

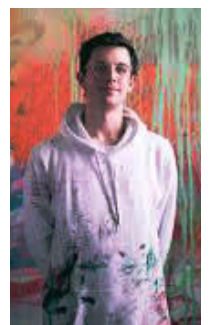
Charles visited Ivor in his home in Aldinga to explain what he wanted. The original painting hangs in Legacy House. The depiction (above) on the sidewall of Legacy House, Franklin Street, Adelaide, was created by local street artist David Court and was funded by a grant from the Premier's ANZAC Day Commemoration Fund.

Dave Court is a multi-disciplinary artist working in areas of painting, design and installation.

Current work includes large scale mural painting, event activation, venue design and creation of immersive installations.

After graduating with Visual Arts honours specialising in painting in 2013, Dave was involved with award winning immersive art project Mr IST. Other major projects include running ethical clothing brand foolsandtrolls, retail store/art space Created Range and working as creative director of Yewth Magazine and freelance work and art practice.

Dave's has expanded to include experimental aspects of photography, video, performance, installation and collaboration.



***The Legacy Ode***  
***Fear not that you have died for naught***  
***The torch you threw to us we caught.***  
***And now our hands will hold it high***  
***Its glorious light shall never die,***  
***We'll not break faith with you who lie***  
***On many a field***



## 6 RAR ASSOCIATION

**New committee:** After the 2020 reunion was cancelled, the Association President Mr Ben McDevitt AM advised the Executive Committee he was resigning for personal reasons. After discussion the Executive Committee members decided to proceed with the election of a new committee for 2020 - 2025.

**Patron:** Graham "Dolly" Dyer OAM

**President:** Wayne Giddings

waynes.giddings9@gmail.com

**Immediate Past President:** Ben McDevitt AM

**Vice President:** Ashley Heywood

ashleyheywood60@gmail.com

**Secretary:** Allan Whelan wheels6rarassn@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** Michael Vanbrugh

6rarassociation@gmail.com

**Merchandise:** Barry Shipway 0412778225

**Stand To Editor:** Bob Bettany

grumpypop13@bigpond.com

**Webmaster:** Graham Smith grasmith6@gmail.com  
Reunion 2021 planning is underway for the cancelled reunion to be held in Brisbane 4 - 6 June 2021. Further advice will be provided when available.

**Subscriptions** The subscriptions for 2020-2025 have been set at \$100 for a posted copy of "Stand To" and \$75 if you elect to receive the magazine by email. Payment is now due and can be made by logging onto the Association's website  
[www.6rarassociation.com](http://www.6rarassociation.com).

**Database:** Members are requested to update their details on the Association member database at  
[https:// app.loveadmin.com/ Login/54F56338B5348CA853E0D3578FA26ED7.htm](https://app.loveadmin.com/Login/54F56338B5348CA853E0D3578FA26ED7.htm).  
Payments can also be made on this page.

## 9 RAR ASSOCIATION

The Newsletter of the 9 RAR Association, "SA Family", is published in May and November. It is an outstanding publication put together by Janet Stacey. The May 2020 edition of 21 pages includes numerous photos and many interesting articles.

This edition came to *Infantryman* via Association President Mick Mummery with permission for the RARA SA to include articles and photos from it.



## 9 RAR ASSOCIATION

ANZAC Day 2020 was somewhat different and while I missed the 9RAR SA Zoom gathering I was at least occupied conducting an ANZAC Service in Fairweather Drive, Strathalbyn. Jennifer had baked some ANZAC biscuits and I delivered them to houses close to us.

Included in the parcel of biscuits was an invitation to "Light Up The Dawn".

On the morning of the 25th by 0600 there were between 30 and 40 of our neighbours assembled on their driveways.

We had a radio to listen to the service from Adelaide. After the service I offered the traditional "Rounds of Gunfire". There would have been 15 or 20 of the gathering who accepted the offer and in distributing the rum I may have served myself a few too many and, while it is no excuse, it could well be the reason I failed to attend the Zoom Service.

Once again, my apology for doing so. And just to prove I was up at dawn on ANZAC Day; The next meeting of the 9RAR Committee could well be a Zoom meeting and if so, I'll be pleased to see you all there.



Photo supplied by Michael Mummery

Mick Mummery  
President 9RAR Association SA Inc

The group of volunteers pictured contributed their planning, time and skills to the Webb family at their fire damaged Aristaeus Farms property at Cudlee Creek. Notably every person in the photo is a veteran, including Marc Webb himself. Other veterans, families and friends took part, a marvellous team effort to keep Marc's projects going and re-establish resources

Absent: Richard and Michael acquiring electrical equipment.

## QLD REUNION

11-14 November 2022. Most activities based around the Sunshine Coast. Organising committee includes Kevin Lynch, Rod Slater and Ted Chitham.



## 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, 'The Ready Battalion'

For 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, 2019 and 2020 has been a busy period with unique challenges and achievement throughout.

In preparation to assume the Ready Battle Group responsibility, 2019 saw the unit conducting joint activities with the Amphibious Task Group as the Ground Combat Element during Exercise Talisman Sabre.

This series of exercises saw 7 RAR perform in an amphibious capability for the first time. The unit undertook ship to shore actions and amphibious lodgements, in conjunction with international partners from the US and Japan.

Subsequently, the unit certified as the Ready Battle Group, the first time 7 RAR has been required to fulfil the Ready Battle Group capability for Army. As part of this responsibility, 7 RAR has maintained the capability and responsibility to deploy at short notice.

The training of 2019 saw the Battalion suitably prepared for the unexpected challenge of the bushfires in Victoria and NSW at the start of this year.

7 RAR assisted our federal and state partners along the South Coast, with sub-units from 7 RAR deploying at short notice to assist in Sale, Nowra, Canberra and the Adelaide Hills for Operation Bushfire Assist 20. 7 RAR deployed within 4 hours to be one of the first Army units in the affected areas.

7 RAR provided technical and specialist assistance to the regional authorities, augmented the command and control structure of the various state fire services, and lead clearance tasks in fire effected areas. 7 RAR then worked with Army Reserve units to support emergency services, before returning to Adelaide.

In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic 7 RAR has remained prepared to deploy at short notice. In these unique circumstances, the unit has modernised and innovated training, while ensuring we remain COVID safe.

Of particular note has been the incorporation of drones training throughout the battalion, which will provide the unit with an advantage in the modern battlespace. We have also updated the technical and digital proficiency of our soldiers to be able to employ digital battle management systems in a more contested domain, and enhanced our combat shooting proficiency in section-level training.

Working within COVID restrictions, 7 RAR has also trained and deployed Alpha Company to Rifle Company Butterworth in Malaysia. Alpha Company has adapted in a difficult environment to deliver small team training and maintain ties with a valued overseas partner, the Malaysian Armed Forces.

With the easing of restrictions in South Australia, we look forward to recognising the history and service shown by the previous and current members of the unit with the RAR association.

In particular, the upcoming anniversary of the Battle of Soui Chai Pha will be an important milestone to recognise the performance of the unit in Vietnam. As we continue through the rest of 2020, 7 RAR will maintain our readiness through targeted and innovative training. The work the unit has done training while under the COVID restriction has allowed us to remain ready, and the Battalion remains in good stead for the remainder of 2020.





## Capture of an NVA soldier

In September 1969 I was the Platoon Commander of 2 Platoon A Company 6 RAR/NZ (ANZAC).

On 30 August 1969 the Battalion deployed from Nui Dat into AO Stuart on OP Burnham, with the Battalion HQ, 101 Field Battery, Support Company and administrative elements occupying FSB DIGGERS REST, an existing base on the Blackstone Trail which had been developed by and occupied by the 5 RAR Battalion Group.

The operation was part of a continuing 1 ATF presence in the Hat Dich, with a subsidiary role to support and protect a major land clearing operation by the US Army Engineers.

A Company was allocated an area of operations in the south of AO Stuart, astride the Firestone Trail, with platoons dispersed throughout the area.

Although other platoons had successful contacts with small enemy groups, (including killing a person later identified as the Commander of 84 Rear Services Group, a VC/NVA Logistics Unit), 2 Platoon had not encountered any enemy.

We entered the AO with seven days rations, so avoided resupply while we got to know the area as we patrolled the tracks and water courses, but we did see signs the enemy was in the area.

After the first resupply, we discovered a well used track and decided to ambush the track at a junction with a subsidiary track.

We were in ambush for almost two full days and two nights when I decided to stand down and have a shave, clean our weapons and have a hot meal.

I placed sentries out along the track in both directions and was enjoying my first hot brew for two days when a sentry returned with the news he had heard a large group heading towards us from the east.

We hastily reset the ambush and when the group arrived the first two people into the killing ground were children armed only with machetes and knives. They were followed by adults armed only with implements.

All up about 12 people of all ages were in the group. None were carrying firearms.

I did not spring the ambush but ordered them all to be detained. I reported the incident and after about 90 minutes, Captain Roger Wickham, Intelligence Officer from HQ 1 ATF and an ARVN Interpreter, arrived by helicopter.

They questioned the group, and advised they were Montagnards from near Baria, who were out to collect bamboo shoots for food, and they were all loyal to and in the employ of the Provincial Governor.

I was ordered to return them to the civilian access area and send them on their way.

Captain Wickham later gained prominence as the father of Tracy Wickham, the swimmer who represented Australia with distinction and Olympic and Commonwealth Games in the 1980s.

I returned to the area I had been ordered to patrol and early the next morning received orders to search an area south of the Firestone Trail, where an agent report had

identified a possible occupied bunker system.

As it was the rainy season there had been much heavy rain and as the platoon moved south, we encountered a creek in full flood, about 10 metres wide with a swift current.

Patrols in both directions for about 500m failed to locate a possible ford so I decided to cross the stream by making an improvised bridge using toggle ropes.

A soldier swam across and a rope bridge was erected which enable the entire platoon to cross in about 30 minutes without incident.

We crossed the Firestone Trail taking precautions to not be observed and by mid-afternoon had arrived in the area where the bunker system had been reported.

The platoon halted and CPL Tony Houldrige, the commander of the leading section, signalled for me to move forward.

He showed me that they had reached an ox-cart track which looked as if it was in constant use.

We undertook further recon along the track and I formed an opinion, based on a sixth sense, this was an area which required a heightened state of alertness.

Accordingly, I ordered that the ox cart track be treated as an obstacle and deployed the platoon to conduct an obstacle crossing, 4 Section (CPL Houldridge) was deployed along the track to my right and 6 Section (CPL Vince Borrett) deployed along the track to my left.

5 Section (CPL Geoff Edwards) deployed in assault formation centre rear so the platoon was deployed in assault formation along the ox cart track.

On my order, 4 Section crossed the track in three groups and took up positions on the far side.

The machine gunner in 4 Section, PTE John (Surfie) Johnson, adopted a kneeling supported position at the buttress root of a large tree.

As I was about to order 6 Section to cross, 4 Section gave the thumbs down, the field signal for enemy.

I looked up and saw a tall well built enemy dressed in greens with a pith helmet and carrying an AK47 advancing towards 4 Section, searching the undergrowth.

The movement of 4 Section, running across the track must have made sufficient noise to alert the enemy to our presence.

As the enemy advanced, PTE Johnson attempted to slink lower and to lean back to gain additional cover from the buttress root.

When he was about to overbalance, he opened fire killing the enemy.

As we were in assault formation, despite having no knowledge of what was to our front, but emboldened by the thought that the enemy had not deployed a sentry on our approach, I ordered an immediate platoon attack.

Using fire and movement within and between sections, we quickly entered a system of about 12 bunkers, with the enemy only firing a few shots as they fled.

As we proceeded through the system, a grenade was



tossed into each bunker.

Having previously successfully cleared 6 or 8 bunkers, CPL Borrett to my left put a grenade into a bunker, called "Grenade" and we all went to ground.

To our surprise, the grenade did not detonate on the bunker, but on the surface about 15 metres to my left, and only a few metres from CPL Borrett.

An enemy hiding in the bunker had picked up the grenade and thrown it out before it had exploded.

To say this surprised us would be a gross understatement. Luckily as we were all on the ground there were no serious injuries, just a few superficial shrapnel wounds.

CPL Borrett, who was closest, was saved by his green hard backed army notebook in his trousers pocket. A large piece of the grenade case lodged in the notebook without reaching his leg.

I immediately called a couple of members of the depth section forward and had them guard the bunker while the platoon cleared the remainder of the bunker system.

When I was assured that all the enemy had fled, I established all round defence and then returned to the bunker where the enemy was known to be hiding.

The Platoon Sergeant, SGT Lew Langabeer, then tossed two smoke grenades into the bunker and followed with two HE grenades when he was sure the bunker was completely full of smoke.

After the smoke dissipated, Lew entered the bunker to retrieve what he assumed would be the body of one enemy KIA.

To his and my amazement, the enemy soldier was still alive. He was stunned and severely concussed, with bleeding from the nose and ears, and a myriad of puncture wounds all over his body. He was given first aid by PTE Jock Smith, my platoon medic/stretchers bearer.

HQ A Company soon arrived in my location and when the enemy soldier saw SGT Tuy, the ARVN interpreter with A Coy unleashed a verbal tirade which SGT Tuy told us was a denunciation that he (SGT Tuy) was an imperialist lap dog and a traitor to the Vietnamese people.

The A Company Medical Orderly, CPL "Doc" Laurent, examined the enemy soldier and thought his injuries were likely to be fatal, however, we received orders from Battalion HQ the enemy soldier was to be kept alive and evacuated to a medical facility where he could be interrogated to provide information on the enemy in AO STUART, which the Commanding Officer believed to be lacking at that time.

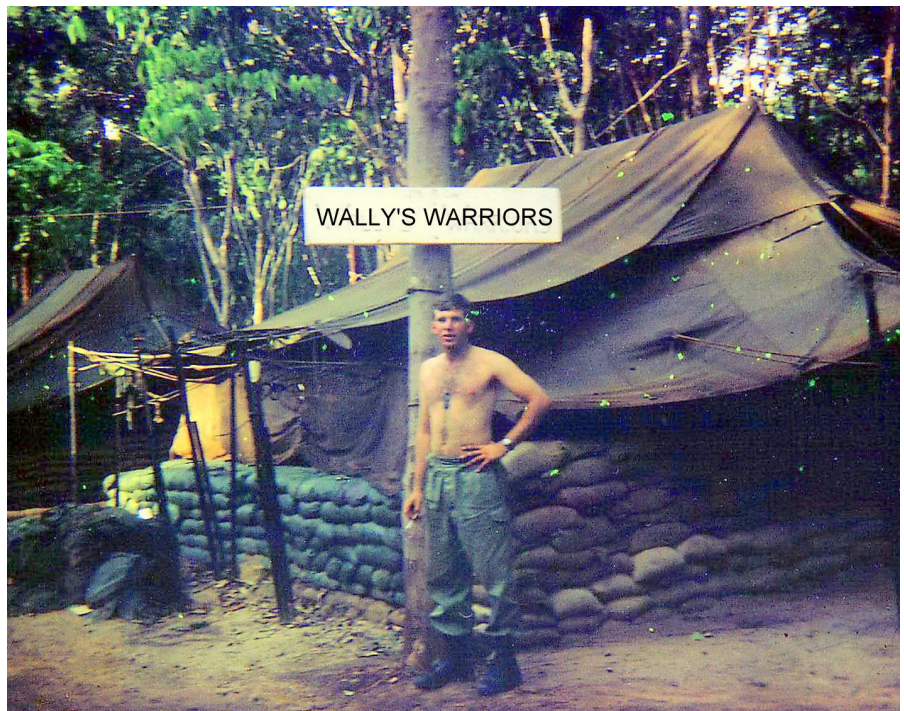
We requested a DUSTOFF, but it had not arrived by evening stand-to when 2 Platoon was sent to occupy a

defensive position for the night, several hundred metres to the west of the bunker system.

A DUSTOFF finally arrive at about 2100hrs and was guided to the location by the brave actions of the Company 2IC, CAPT Len Grant, RNZIR, who was on permanent "loan" from HQ NZ Component.

Len stood in the middle of a large nearby bomb crater with a strobe light held above his head, in full view of any enemy, as we had not completely cleared all of the surrounding areas.

The enemy soldier was winched up to the DUSTOFF helicopter and taken to the POW Hospital at Long Binh.



The Battalion Intelligence Officer, CAPT Fred Fairhead flew to Long Binh the next day to interrogate the prisoner, only to be told he had died during the night. All that for nothing.

Several days later A Company less 2 Platoon relieved V Company as the protection group for the Land Clearing operation while 2 Platoon was deployed to FSB DIGGERS REST to bolster the defences and on 21 September was involved in the defence of the base.

But that is another story.

Bill Wallace June 2020.



**Members: Our new phone number is 0480 197 739**



## 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 Peter LeRitche 0432 649 063

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

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

3 RAR Jeff Barrett gadgetbarrett@gmail.com 0415 242 084

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

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

5/7 RAR Vacant

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 Mick Mummery mmummery&chariot.net.au 0428 387 670

### 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: 0408 197 739

Website: www.rarasa.org.au

Email: rar01@internode.on.net

BAR ROSTER AUGUST -- DECEMBER 2020			
August	7th	Adrian	
	14th	Jeff	Owing to uncertainty
	21st	Spike	
	28th	Kara	due to COVID-19
September	4th	Adrian	
	11th	Jeff	restrictions,
	18th	Spike	
	25th	Kara	Family Fridays will
October	2nd	Adrian	
	9th	Jeff	not be held until
	16th	Spike	
	23rd	Kara	numbers restrictions
	30th	Adrian	
November	6th	Jeff	are lifted,
	13th	Spike	
	20th	Kara	Light meals will be
	27th	Adrian	
December	4th	Jeff	available on club
	11th	Spike	
	18th	Kara	nights.
	25th	CLOSED	

### Infantryman style

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

- Articles in 10pt Aerial preferred.
- Photos separately as jpgs. Subject line for article and photos should match. Always include the word Infantryman plus one or two words
- Phone Numbers: Landline: 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 in numbers. Also 1st, 2nd etc.
- Dates must include the day of the week.
- Dates: Saturday September 10 - but when year added Saturday 10 September 2018 so numbers don't clash

Thanks - Penelope Forster, Editor

Amazingly this issue of 20 pages has been one of the largest ever published during perhaps 10 years. Over recent years submissions of articles and photos had dwindled.

Is it because of Covid-19 that members have had time to submit material? Hopefully this will continue for future editions.

My thanks are extended to those who contributed to this August 2020 issue. And also to my husband, Bruce, for taking photos and patiently helping me prepare the pages and seek answers to questions sometimes challenging in submitted copy. The supplied material has made this Infantryman among the most interesting published. Thank you - Penelope Forster, Editor