



INFANTRYMAN

The Journal of the RAR Association SA
Keeping the Spirit Alive

December 2020



You're welcome: Fridays attracting more visitors & members

The photo (courtesy of Maria Capriulo) was taken when 7RAR visited the Association on Friday October 23.

Many of the blokes have only recently marched into the Battalion following recruit training at 1RTB Kapooka and Corp training at 3TB Singleton They were very interested in the association's history etc .which was pleasing.

The big bloke on the left is RP Sergeant Glenn Buckley

who joined 2RAR with WO1 John Craig RSM of 10/27RSR back in 1999. Colonel Peter Scott is in the middle in the place of honour. .

The plan of attack is for a 7RAR contingent to attend the Association on the last Friday of each month including November.- Mal Allen

More photos pages 8 and 9



The President of the Royal Australian Regiment Association SA Michael von Berg MC OAM extends Seasons Greetings to Members, their Families, Friends and Visitors and thanks everyone for their involvement with the Association during the difficult 2020. He looks forward to your ongoing support and trusts you all have a Happy Christmas and fulfilling 2021.

67th Anniversary of Cessation of Hostilities in Korea celebrated



Left: Lt Col Patrick Forbes reading the poem 'To the boys we left behind' by Pte P J Paterson, nephew of renowned Australian poet, A B Paterson. The poem was written by a soldier to his dead mates who died as soldiers while fighting in the Korean War in the 1950s. Centre: The Governor of South Australia The Honourable Hieu Van Le AC giving his address with Colonel Peter Scott as MC sitting behind him. Right: Colonel Peter Scott, Colonel Don Beard, and Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Forbes who laid a tribute in memory of the 43 Missing in Action

The Korean & South East Asia Forces Association of Australia Inc SA Branch conducted the 67th Anniversary of the Cessation of Hostilities (Missing in Action) Memorial Service at the Korean War Memorial, Port Road at 11.am on Saturday 10 October 2020.

In the presence of His Excellency the Governor of South Australia The Honourable Hieu Van Le AC who gave an interesting and very appropriate address to about 100 participants and later laid a tribute.

The Catafalque Party was provided by cadets of 225 Battalion, Legion of Frontiersmen Australian Command and the band of some twenty members from the Maltese Queen of Victories Band lead by Joe Camilleri who had previously served in 3RAR in Woodside, SA.

The Premier was represented by Matt Cowdrey OAM, The Leader of the Opposition by Tung Ngo MLC and the Member for Hindmarsh Mark Butler MP. Other guests present and laying tributes were Cerise Lonigan DVA, Catherine Walsh Veterans SA, War Widows Guild June Handley and Jan Milne, Navy CMDR Christopher Jones, RAAF WGCD William Black, MFS Chief Michael Morgan and Mark Jones, RSL Cheryl Cates, SAPOL A/Asst Comm Lynden Dunstan, Salvation Army Lance & Anne Jeffery and Australian Red Cross Val Smyth & Rose Rhodes and members of the Korean Community Kerry Lewis & Kyung Yun Lee.

Also, Richard Lee Korean Veteran Vietnam War, Endeavour College David Thiele & students and Brig Alvin Warren and cadets of 225 Battalion Legion Of

Frontiersmen. Mr Edgar Awins OAM JP laid a tribute as President Maltese Community Council of South Australia. President SA MNA Phil Mason also laid a tribute.

Representing the Royal Australian Regiment were Colonel Don Beard AM RFD ED (Retd), Colonel Peter Scott DSO (Retd) and Lt Col Patrick Forbes MC ED (Retd). Colonel Don Beard was the Regimental Medical Officer in 3RAR during the Battle of Kapyong in April 1951, Colonel Scott was the Intelligence Officer 3RAR during the Battle of Maryang San in October 1951 and Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Forbes was in 2RAR during the Battle of the 'Hook' in July 1953 and was awarded the Military Cross for his bravery as Pioneer Platoon Commander during that battle.

The Roll of Honour was read by the MC Colonel Peter Scott in memory of the 43 soldiers, sailors and airmen who are missing in action because of operations against the Chinese Forces during the Korean War.

The Ode of Remembrance was recited by John Jarrett President K&SEAFA and the Poem 'To the boys we left behind' was read by Lt Col Forbes. The Reverend Moon Read the Invocation and Prayer.

A delicious roast chicken lunch was provided at the Henley Beach RSL after the service.

Overall a very successful Memorial Service arranged by President K&SEAFA John Jarrett and Paul Sykes from Veterans SA.

- By Peter Scott

FROM THE COMMAND POST

IGADF AFGHANISTAN INQUIRY

We must do all what we can to support those currently serving

The views and opinions expressed are purely my personal views and not necessarily those of our Association. It would be improper not to declare I have served in both SAS and 2 Commando in the days when it was a Reserve Unit.

There will be considerable media and community concerns expressed in the damaging findings of the Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force (IGADF) Afghanistan Inquiry. These findings need to be expressed as allegations and there needs to be a presumption of innocence until matters are fully investigated.

We need to be mindful that the IGADF Inquiry has no powers to prosecute or charge individuals. The PM has appointed a special investigator to pursue these allegations and if there is a case to answer the matter will be brought to the attention of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions and if warranted the individual concerned will be dealt with accordingly.

This process could take many years and in the meantime life for those accused, the witnesses, their families, the serving members of both SASR and 2 Commando, the proud ex-serving members of both units and veterans of the Defence Force overall life must go on and we must do all what we can to support those individuals.

These are serious allegations and they will be pursued, but it must not besmirch everyone who is currently serving and who has proudly served in these units. There are some great young people currently serving in both Regiments and they need to be supported during this exceedingly difficult time.

It's not in our nature to kick someone when they are down and we must be mindful that during this legal process the presence and capabilities of SAS and 2 Commando must be maintained, both physically and emotionally in keeping us safe, in particular if required, their counter terrorism capabilities.

More importantly as we are all by default tied up in this we need to maintain the morale of our Defence personnel overall, who once again will be called on to assist in fighting bushfires sometime this year or next and no doubt many will be on COVID-19 duties right up to Christmas and longer.

Like us all, I am disappointed in some of the allegations and do not necessarily accept that numerous rotations have led to these allegations. It's not who or what we are as a fighting force or as a nation.

There is an old cliché, - "do not denigrate the soldier, denigrate the war" and in this case you could cliché "do not denigrate the rotations, denigrate the strategy" where the Cabinet, and the service chiefs all need to shoulder a part of the blame.

What was the strategy for Afghanistan you might rightfully ask? Who was in control and what was the end game? Vietnam all over again? Why couldn't our Infantry Battalions be engaged more in what are normal Infantry Battalion tasks of village cordon and search, advance to contact, ambushing, denial/disruption tasks, and some observation and strong point functions, enabling SASR and 2 Commando to focus more on strategic tasks and roles?



The sharing of these responsibilities at a more realistic and sustainable level would have reduced rotations and burn out of our Special Forces and what many have claimed has led to the current situation. The Infantry Battalions are very capable but were not given the opportunity because of the political fears of casualties and in deploying the Special Forces only, these casualties would be kept down.

The lack of confidence in the leadership and capabilities of our Infantry Battalions is a travesty when it was the "leadership" in both SASR and 2 Commando during this period which has been cited as a major issue.

There most certainly needs to be accountability right up the chain of command and government to ascertain where command and decision making broke down. It's more than just allegations made against operators. It is the command which allowed or turned a blind eye to what is alleged unacceptable behavior and where we are today.

Although currently they are allegations, they are a stain on the units, the Army, and the nation overall, and we all need to work very hard to regain the admiration and respect for the Army in the broader community and that's where we can all do our bit. We cannot let these inappropriate and illegal allegations of a few besmirch the many fine young men and women who serve proudly and with great human grace in our Army.

I see these great young men and women in many units in my travels and I simply could not look them in the eye knowing we had not done everything to support them, while this cloud is travelling over us all.

We are all proud of having served and we will do all that is possible within our means to support our serving young men and women. If we as a proud ex-service organisation start, it may influence others.

"Start by doing what's necessary, then do what's possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible" - St Francis of Assisi.

- Michael von Berg MC OAM

The Australian Army at a glance

A friend once told me he didn't understand the military system. Dumb civilian, I said to myself, but openly I said: "The system is really quite simple."

You see, all people in the Army are soldiers, all privates are soldiers, but not all soldiers are privates.

Some are officers who are commissioned, but some are officers who are not commissioned.

Obviously if every private was called private it would be confusing, so some privates are called things like trooper, driver, gunner, craftsman, sapper or signaller.

Not all of the drivers actually drive because some of them cook, but we don't call them cooks, for that matter, not all drivers are called drivers – some of them are privates or gunners.

Gunners, as I'm sure you know, are the blokes who fire guns, unless of course they are drivers or signallers in which case we call them gunners rather than drivers or signallers just to make it clearer.

All gunners belong to the artillery, except the infantry we have gunners who are called privates because they fire a different sort of gun, for the same reason we call our drivers and signallers private as well.

A Lance Corporal is called Corporal, unless he is a Lance Bombardier then we call him Bombardier to distinguish him from a full Bombardier, who is just like a Corporal.

All other ranks are called by their rank for the sake of simplicity except that Staff Sergeants are called Staff, but they are not on the staff, some Warrant Officers, who are not officers, are called Sergeant Majors although they are not Sergeants or Majors. Some Warrant Officers are called Mister which is the same thing that we call some officers but they are not Warrant

Officers. A Lieutenant is also called Mister because they are subalterns, but we always write their rank as Lieutenant or Second Lieutenant, and second comes before first.

When we talk about groups of soldiers there obviously has to be clear distinction. We call them Officers and Soldiers although we know that officers are soldiers too, sometimes we talk about officers and other ranks which is the same as calling them soldiers. I guess it is easiest when we talk about rank and file which is all the troops on parade except the officers and some of the NCOs – and a few of the privates – and the term is used whether everyone is on parade or not.

A large unit is called a battalion, unless it is a regiment but sometimes a regiment is much bigger than a battalion and then it has nothing to do with the other sort of regiment. Sub units are called companies unless they are squadrons or troops or batteries for that matter. That is not radio batteries and don't confuse this type of troop with the type who are soldiers but not officers.

Mostly the Army is divided into Corps as well as units, not the sort of Corps which is a couple of divisions but the sort which tells you straight away what trade each man performs, whether he is a tradesmen or not. The Infantry Corps has all the infantrymen for example and the Artillery Corps has all the gunners. Both these Corps also have signallers and drivers except those who are in the Signals or Transport Corps. In fact the Signals Corps is not a service at all because it is an Arm. Arms do all the fighting, although Signals don't have to fight too much, rather like the Engineers who are also an Arm but they don't fight too much either.

So you see, it's really quite simple.

- Contributed by Club Manager Greg Dwiar

Britannia waives the rules

The Royal Navy is proud to announce its new fleet of Type 45 destroyers.

Having initially named the first two ships HMS Daring and HMS Dauntless, the Naming Committee has, after intensive pressure from Brussels, renamed them HMS Cautious and HMS Prudence.

The next five ships are to be HMS Empathy, HMS Circumspect, HMS Nervous, HMS Timorous and HMS Gay.

Costing £850 million each, they comply with the very latest employment, equality, health & safety and P C human rights laws.

The Royal Navy fully expects any future enemy to be jolly decent and to comply with the same high standards of behaviour.

The new user-friendly crew's nest has wheelchair access.

Stress counsellors will be on board.

The crew will be 50/50 men and women and will contain the correct balance of race, gender, shirt lifters and pillow biters.

All the vessels will be equipped with a maternity ward and a gay disco.

Tobacco will be banned throughout the ship, but recreational cannabis will be allowed in wardrooms and

messes. The Royal Navy is eager to shed its traditional reputation for; "Rum, sodomy and the lash"; so out has gone the rum ration, replaced by sparkling water.

Sodomy remains, now extended to include all ratings under 18. The lash will still be available on request.

Saluting of officers is now considered elitist and has been replaced by the greeting "Hello Sailor".

Crew members will now no longer have to ask permission to grow beards and/or moustaches. This applies equally to the female and transgender crew.

The MoD is inviting suggestions for a "non-specific" flag because the White Ensign may offend minorities. The Union Jack must never be seen.

The newly re-named HMS Cautious will be commissioned shortly, she/he will gently slide into the sea as the Royal Marines Band plays "In the Navy" by the Village People.

Her first deployment will be to escort boatloads of illegal immigrants to ports on England's south coast.

The Prime Minister said, "Our ships reflect the very latest in modern thinking and they will always be able to comply with any new P C orders or legislation from Brussels."

His final words were, "Britannia waives the rules."

- Contributed by Peter Scott

Australian Veterans' Recognition Putting Veterans and their Families First

22 October 2019
Esort Secretariat

Good afternoon ESORT members,

I would like to thank you for your ongoing commitment and support to ensuring veterans and their families receive the recognition and respect they deserve for their service and sacrifice to our country.

I am pleased to let you know that the Government's Australian Veterans' Recognition (Putting Veterans and their Families First) Bill 2019 has passed Federal Parliament today.

This legislation formally establishes the Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant which includes an oath, lapel pin and Veteran Card which are available for veterans and eligible reservists.

With the passing of this legislation we will now start to send out the lapel pins and oath to those who have already registered via mail in the coming weeks.



The new Veteran Card, which is a redesign of the existing DVA health cards, continues to provide access to treatments and benefits and will soon provide access to thousands of offers from businesses across Australia as a part of a new benefits program.

We are expecting to launch the benefits program very soon and will be sending information packs in the mail to Ex-Service Organisations and RSL Sub-branches which includes promotional material and a set of frequently asked questions to help you support veterans to ensure they get the most out of the program.

Veterans and reservists can continue to register for the Covenant online through MyService, by calling DVA on 1800 555 254, or by visiting your local Veterans Access Network office.

For more information about the Covenant, please visit <https://www.dva.gov.au/benefits-and-payments/australian-defence-veterans-covenant>

Liz Cosson AM CSC
Secretary
Department of Veterans' Affairs
eliz.cosson@dva.gov.au

Book launch of *Crossing the Khyber Pass* by Colonel F Peter Scott DSO (Retd) postponed to February 2021 due to new virus outbreak

Due to concerns about the Covid outbreak the launch on November 25 has been postponed. The new date will be advised as soon as it has been secured and Colonel Scott will be in touch with those who have purchased a book to arrange delivery.



These are the regimental badges of British and Indian units which served in the area of the Khyber Pass

Francis Peter Scott is a retired army officer who served continuously for 37 Years. During those years he attended the Staff College in Quetta, Pakistan in 1958 and subsequently as Defence Attaché to Pakistan and Afghanistan 1973-1975.

They spent their leave in Cyprus and experienced a coup and evacuation to the UK in 1974.

Over the three and a half years spent in these two countries, Peter describes life firstly as a student, and subsequently, as the Australian Defence Attaché he has

described the special historical sites he and his family have visited and his duties as an Attaché. His story is illustrated by many photographs taken during their travels.

It is expected the book will be available by the end of November. Price; \$30 plus \$10 postage and handling. Peter's bank details are ANZ BSB 015627 A/C no 582107472 in the name of F P Scott and advise your address using Peter's email

pscott1@internode.on.net

20th Sept 2020

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
fadt.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Reference: Submission – National Commissioner
for Defence and Veteran Suicide
Prevention Bill 2020

Not being a lawyer or legislator, we seek your indulgence in presenting this submission more as a commentary based on some issues of concern which do not seem to be expressed clearly in the Bill as presented.

As the parent body of some 12 Battalion Associations and State and Territory RAR Associations we wish to categorically state that we are totally supportive of the appointment of a Commissioner and the legislation in principal.

As the National President of our organization, a member of the ESORT for some ten years, a past member of the PMAC on Veterans Mental Health (six years) and through one on one advocacy and crisis management there is considerable emotional skin in this space to assist in any way to prevent the suicide of veterans and serving individuals.

Thankfully through good counselling and support mechanisms and both physical and mental healing we have been able to assist individuals to move on to productive and fulfilling lives, but we believe much more needs to be done.

Although suicide and self-harm is a national tragedy, it seems to be very prevalent in our corps and ex or serving members of our Regiment and Special Forces. In trying to understand the reasons as to why, which are extraordinarily complex, there are no clear indications as to the reasons but there invariably triggers and that is alcohol and or prescription or illicit drugs.

In no order the areas we wish to cover in this submission are as follows: -

Appointment

The Bill as it reads seems to satisfy the appointment of the Commissioner, the terms and conditions and skills sets and understandably it does not say who should NOT be appointed in looking at independence and impartiality. Many of the cases in which we have been involved had some serious issues which were upstream in the still serving ADF system. Unfortunately, in some of these cases when approaching Army in our case, there has been a case of drawing up the bridge and nothing to see here. Mostly at unit level. We are of the firm view that the Commissioner appointed should not be ex-military. Not suggesting anything improper or irregular but military loyalty runs deep and if a sensitive issue the Commissioner if an ex one- or two-star, should not be

put into that position. Ideally an eminent person from the legal profession who understands the complexities across State and Territorial boundaries and Coronial Inquiries, and most importantly can reach into the ADF Courts of Inquiry (COI) when an individual has committed suicide on ADF property.

These COI frankly are an embarrassment in legal process, and this is where a Commissioner must have an input into the conduct and impartiality of such a process. There seems to be a penchant of absolving the Commonwealth of any fault in the findings which is almost predetermined and totally unjust and unfair to the family of the deceased. This is from personal experience.



Hopefully the appointment NOT coming from the ex-military ranks although seen by us as a positive, there is a need for guidance and assistance required as to the workings and culture of the ADF, DVA and ESO and families and we see an opportunity to utilize current and new appointments in DVA to assist the Commissioner in understanding and navigating what can be at times an intimidating and confusing space. The three distinct areas and liaison for the want of a better term for the Commissioner recommended are as follows:

- ADF Link – Maj Gen Stuart Smith AO DSC (ret'd) – Defence Engagement Commissioner
- DVA/ESO Link – Don Spinks AM – Repatriation Commissioner
- Veterans Families – Gwen Cherne – Veteran Family Advocate DVA

The Commissioner in being able to utilize the assistance of the above will undoubtedly in many instances speed up the processes.

Reporting Lines and Chain of Command

What is not clear is who the Commissioner reports to on a day to day basis if anyone at all? We have been advised in the first instance that the appointment will be a part of the Attorney Generals Department and assuming that on a daily basis the Commissioner will not be reporting to the Minister, just who does he report to?

One assumes that it cannot be anyone in the ADF or DVA, so what is that reporting function and how will it function?

Workload

The terms of investigating some four hundred suicides and those findings delivered to the Parliament in 18 months seems a task too far. Some five completed investigations in a week is not possible in this sensitive space, where NOK and loved ones, would still be grieving. Time does not heal suicide grief because there is always the fundamental question of why? Although this investigation may unearth some findings that may be useful in the future, the key role as outlined is to prevent suicide NOW, not necessarily conducting some form of witch hunt. There is no suggestion that the investigations should not be pursued and if any malfeasance, maladministration, by the ADF or DVA or ESO is discovered it must be addressed, but it would be of some concern if the focus was more on the past than the future.

IGDF Inquiry and Moral Injury

This matter has been discussed at length on the PMAC and ESORT and in my case with members of SOCOM and although both the respective units of SASR and Commando, the ADF and Open Arms all have excellent systems currently in place, the moral wounding and injury is going to be acute and in some cases some individuals will take years to recover if at all and many of these are in the serious risk category. This is an urgent area that the Commissioner should be addressing from day one hence the concerns expressed in the previous paragraph. I have served both in SASR and Commando and have had many conversations with ex and still serving members and moral injury is an area that still too few understand, and it requires urgent attention. The risks here are considerable.

Sustainability

Considering that the Opposition were against this appointment with the Greens and seeking a Royal Commission, what guarantee that this five-year

appointment will stay in place, if there is a change of Government? Will the Government of the day establish a Royal Commission and dispense with the Commissioner who by this time would have secured an enormous amount of information and established goodwill with the ADF, DVA and the broader ESO community and all of his/her "intellectual property" is lost? Our organisation supporting this Commissioner rather than a Royal Commission was based on the muted powers of the Commissioner and the fact that it was in effect a "rolling Commission" rather than just a one off and then ending up in some bottom drawer. This is still a vital part of our thinking and any risk to sustainability of this Commission will be viewed very negatively in the veteran's community and by the NOK. This role should be above politics and supported by the whole of Parliament on and on-going basis whilst the risks remain.

Conclusion

There is nobody in Australia who in some way has not been touched by suicide. It is a national tragedy and in particular, the military and veterans' space where that space is considerably smaller and more prevalent. The major ESO's are a part of the extended veteran family where there is considerable knowledge and experience of suicide and self-harm, in particular in supporting the families. Although the appointment of the Commissioner is a very positive step and we look forward to working with him/her as required, the prevention of suicide in the serving and veterans space must be the responsibility of us all working together in an open, collegiate and transparent way as a team. A team determined to win.

Duty First
Michael von Berg MC OAM
Chair and National President
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We will remember them

On Monday November 2 Vice President Rod Graham and Club Manager Greg Dwiar placed crosses on the lawns of remembrance, North Terrace, Adelaide, for the Regiments soldiers who died in battle leading up to Armistice Day on November 11. Armistice Day is commemorated every year on 11 November to mark the armistice signed between the Allies of World War I and Germany at Compiègne, France, at 5.45 am, for the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front of World War I, which took effect at eleven o'clock in the morning - the eleventh hour of the eleventh day.



Mingling with memories - pictures highlight welcoming



From left: Bob Whinnen 7RARA-SA Rep; Ed Czerwinski ex 8RAR ;WO1 Paul Dehnert CSM, RSM 7RAR; Mike von Berg MC OAM President RARA-SA; Lt Colonel Adam Gower, CO 7RAR ; and Brigadier Laurie Lewis AM Ret'd , Patron RARA-SA



From left: Maria Capriulo, Ed Fatiak and Ed Czerwinski



From left: Trevor Jones, Ian Smith, Greg "Spike" Dwiar RARA-SA Club Manager, Mal Allen and Paul Stein.

When restrictions were slowly being lifted and the good record of South Australians obeying the requirements, more members, their friends and visitors were gradually returning to the clubrooms.

Gawler RSL members were among those at the AGM on Sunday October 11 at which no changes were made to the committee.

On Friday September 18 as part of the ongoing strengthening of ties between 7RAR and the Association, CO Lt Colonel Adam Gower and RSM WO1 Paul Dehnert CSM visited the Association together with a number of diggers who enjoyed the company of all present.

Additionally WO1 John Craig RSM of 10/27RSAR, was also in attendance as was Open Arms representative Nathan Ross in addition to two of our Korean veterans Colonel Peter Scott DSO MID Ret'd and Lt Colonel Patrick Forbes MC Ret'd.

Sincere appreciation is expressed to all who assisted on the evening, including Rod Graham and Colin Abel.

**Thanks are extended to Mal Allan for his help with this edition
Editor Penelope Forster**

atmosphere on Friday nights at Regiment Association



From left: Lt Colonel Adam Gower CO 7RAR 9;RAR; Bob Whinnen; and WO1 Paul Dehnert CSM, RSM 7RAR.



From left: Paul Graham; Rod Graham RARA-SA Vice President; Mal Allen WO1 and Paul Dehnert CSM ,RSM 7RAR.



*Anne Dennis was among those warmly welcomed at the club for the AGM on 11 October 2020. She is seen with Gawler RSL members (from left) Wayne Clark, Peter Clark and Pat Adams all of whom served overseas.
Photos: Bruce Forster*



From left: WO1 Paul Dehnert CSM, RSM RAR ;Col Peter Scott DSO MID Ret'd, CO 3RAR 2nd. Tour SVN; Catherine Walsh, Director Veterans SA / Lt Colonel Adam Gower, CO 7RAR.

CLUB MANAGER'S REPORT:

Involvement appreciated to all who helped during the weird times in 2020

As we all know this has been an unusual last half of the year for the Association, however things have been looking up since July 2000.

Our Family Friday monthly meals were well attended by members and friends. We continued our monthly jackpot which has not been won in the last six months. Currently there is \$375 still waiting to be won when life returns to "normal".

The turnover from the bar has dropped significantly from the beginning of January to the present. We understand the reason for this including there have been no social functions to boost the turnover.

An ANZAc Day service was carried out on April 25 with a candle light service by inviting our neighbours in Beatty Street to 'LIGHT UP THE DAWN' to join with us after for the traditional rum, coffee and ANZAC biscuits.

An incident happened in July this year where we had an intruder

on the property. The police apprehended him on the side of our building after he scaled our neighbours' fence trying to elude the police from an incident on Portrush Road. No damage was done to our property and the incident was captured on our security cameras.

Many thanks to Colin Ablel for his untiring efforts in the kitchen with meals; members who assisted with cleaning up after event; Arthur and Michelle Gelberg for supplying trifles for deserts; Ian McDougal for helping to freshen up the windows with a coat of paint under the veranda; Malcolm Allen for assisting with our monthly emails out of what is happening around the RAR updates keeping the members in touch; and everyone who has lent a hand around the club, whether it be painting, tidying up the back yard and/or working on the bar roster- all pitching in for the betterment of the Regiment in South Australia.

- Greg Dwiar, Club Manager RARA SA



'I have been given the tools'

INTRODUCTION

At my invitation, the following article is written by Eric Ford to record his feelings and observations as a first-time attendee on a trek. Eric is taking over the role of Operations Director SA from me. I will remain as the Operations Director for the Foundation. This trek had a slightly different mix of attendees in that first responders, particularly firefighters, were encouraged to take part. This gesture was in response to the dreadful fires over the summer period in SA. Six firefighters and one police officer were in the group of 12. All were from SA.

OBSERVATIONS OF A FIRST TIMER ON TROJAN'S TREK

As a mental health nurse who had spent 12 years working in Ward 17 at the Repat and then at the Jamie Larcombe Centre, I have known of Trojan's Trek for some years. I had also worked with Moose back in the 80s at the Reserve Command and Staff College at Hamstead Barracks and had been there when Dogs Kearney was the RSM. They are both essential elements of the trek.

When I retired, I contacted Moose to see if someone with my experience could be of use to the trek. He seemed to think so! So, having worked with Moose in the military, I felt ready to take part.

The trek is run at Moolooloo Station in the North Flinders Ranges of SA. It is a non-clinical adjunct to assist veterans and first responders with issues related to post-traumatic stress illness. These issues range from depression, anxiety, anger, drugs, and alcohol overuse, all of which inhibit the trekkers ability to function in his or her "normal" life.

The trek is a six-day bush experience with mentors and facilitators who have been trekkers themselves. As Moose would say "they have walked the walk and understand the frustrations being experienced".

On arrival on day one, it was patently obvious this group had problems. There was no eye contact and I sensed they shared some common problems as they each introduced themselves. This was difficult for some as it was inevitable the story of why they had joined the trek would resurface emotional responses.

Three nights in swags round a campfire would change that. Each day was filled with the delivery of sessions on subjects which inevitably struck a chord with the group. The trekkers spent time travelling in a 4WD from place to

place, talking and sharing experiences and feelings with the three other passengers which included a staff member. These periods permitted honest and frank discussion with the mentors and facilitators in the vehicle, and I suspect some had never told their story previously.

The evenings round the campfire also promoted the continuation of the frank non-judgemental sharing. Games were played in the evenings which made trekkers feel part of the group. By day three everyone appeared to be comfortable and open to the ideas and concepts put forward during the daily sessions. Each day was a cathartic experience as we moved from place to place in that beautiful ancient land. By week's end there was eye contact all round.

As a first timer I was impressed with the attitude of the facilitators and mentors, knowing that they had been trekkers themselves. It was obvious that the trekkers gained from the experience with a few asking if they could come back as mentors. Does it work? this quote tells it all:

"I feel like I am about to cry but not for the usual reasons like I used to but because for the first time in as long as I can remember I am so happy, so calm and so peaceful and I truly believe I have been given the tools I need to continue this journey of life outside of Trojan's Trek."

Certainly, I will be back. I regret I did not put up my hand much earlier.

- Eric Ford
Operations Director SA



For further information see
www.trojanstrek.com for further information

The Spirit of the Royal Australian Regiment lives eternally

- by George Mansford, 2020

I was asked if I would provide some comments about the military spirit which embraces our beloved Royal Australian Regiment (RAR).

Given my personal observations of troops in the field in recent time, there is no doubt it is very much alive and as vibrant as ever.

Our tribal genesis is the genes of the originals who were the battle-weary veterans of WW2. Many of them were still soldiering on and wearing the infant RAR regimental badge during the Korean War. Some were still there during operational service in Malaya, Thai Border, Borneo and, to remind all of us that old soldiers never die, there were still a few barking orders and setting examples in Vietnam.

A very critical and mostly forgotten phase of soldiering was during the Great Peace where there were those who guarded our standards and regimental spirit. They did it well, as demonstrated in subsequent deployments including Butterworth (Malaysia 1970-1989), Rwanda and Somalia. Once the Great Peace ended, it seemed traffic jams were inevitable as yet more generations of the Regiment travelled to and from Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as other deployments for hazardous peacekeeping duties.

What of that regimental spirit?

We were not born with it, nor was it issued, given as a magical birthday gift or presented by some senior officer from Canberra. It was developed slowly but surely on parade grounds, sentry duty, facing danger, enduring incredible hardships together, caring and sharing with each other, including the fear often hovering close by.

Such spirit will always be a huge and powerful weapon. It gives strength, and helps keep the team united, motivated and always ready to grit teeth, roll up sleeves to do what has to be done.

The following text says it for all in our tribe of what we breathe, speak of, and believe.

"The spirit, which grows up in a Battalion (Regiment) when it has been is a comradeship almost spiritual in its strength and intensity. It springs from hardships shared equally, risks run by all in common and its power exceeds most of the emotions that an ordinary man will ever know. The care of soldiers for one another, their sure and calm dependence on each other are hard to understand by anyone who has not known it." – Osmar White.

Today, the cycle of soldiering continues; the old teaching the new so many qualities not recorded in textbooks and which are waiting to be mastered. Lessons which reach out from barrack-room routines, parade grounds, guardrooms, sports arenas, messes, canteens and in the field.

The proud history to be read understood and confirmed by the deeds of yesterday etched on the sacred cloth flying high. Above all, the NCO Corp is watching; screaming orders as new recruits to the family blend with the old as they join the column. All are in step, marching into its tomorrow with purpose, and always with a proud

indefatigable regimental spirit and ready to do its duty. No matter where the column marches, all those yesterdays' march with it. Its legacy is a proud one and has been tested in the most adverse conditions. The Regiment's spirit has been demonstrated on many occasions, and to mention a few include the defiance at

Kapyong, Samichon, Long Tan and Coral-Balmoral; the daring and aggressiveness at Maryang Sang and Binh Ba and the perseverance so demanding in insurgency operations, seemingly forever and ever.

Always has been the high standard of battle discipline. No matter when or where the ANZAC humour still thrives, and above all, is the trust and faith in each other. All of this and more, was, is and always will be linked to the spirit of the Royal Australian Regiment. It is a powerful treasure that can never be bought or stolen.

At Enoggera Barracks where many of the fallen once trained, there is The WALK which honours the Regiments fallen with a tree and plaque for each of our heroes. The custodians of The WALK who devote their time to constant maintenance are old soldiers of the Regiment. They are clear evidence the Spirit exists beyond serving warriors to the whole RAR family, embracing mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, spouses and children.

To claim it, to feel deeply its great pride, you must be part of it.

George Mansford enlisted in the Australian Army in 1951. He served 40 years as an infantryman; most of that time in the Royal Australian Regiment.

His service included Korea, the Malayan Emergency, Thai Border, Vietnam, New Guinea and Singapore. He was commissioned from the ranks in 1964.

He raised and commanded the Army's Battle School (which is now used by foreign military units including USA, and UK); 11 Infantry Brigade; and the Reconnaissance and Surveillance Force in Far North Queensland.

George was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1975 for outstanding services and retired in 1990 as a Brigadier. He is the author of two books; "Junior Leadership on the Battlefield" and the best-selling novel, "The Mad Galahs".



- Michael Von Berg

Meet the new Vice Presidents of 9RAR SA

Geoff Boettcher was appointed one of the new Vice Presidents of 9 RARSA on the 5th March 2020.

Before conscription Geoff was nearing completion of an Electrical Apprenticeship with General Motors Holden. After deferment he completed his studies and departed from Keswick Barracks for Basic Training at Puckapunyal, on the 8 February 1968.

9RAR was being deployed to Vietnam in November 1968 and at that time the Battalion was short on numbers. Geoff became one of 90+ sent directly from Puckapunyal to Woodside for an accelerated Corp training programme with the newly formed Tango Company.

On completion Geoff was assigned to A Company 3 Platoon, 7 Section under Platoon Commander Lieutenant Adrian Craig and Section Commander Corporal Brian "Grub" McGrath.

Geoff departed for Vietnam in November 1968 on the HMAS Sydney carrying 7 Section M60 Machine Gun. He remained as gunner with 7 Section for approximately 8 months before being promoted to 8 Section as 21C to Geoff "Tubby" Shaw.

Not long in country, Geoff was wounded in his left leg calf by an M16 round from an accidental discharge by a member of his section. After several weeks of rehabilitation in Vung Tau Hospital, he declined the chance to return to Australia and rejoin his section on Operations.

After completing a full tour of duty with the Battalion he returned on the HMAS Sydney leaving Vietnam on 28th November 1969. Sadly, his 8 Section had lost three riflemen serving with the Battalion.

Upon Geoff's return he joined Officers Training in the Reserves but unfortunately, with interstate work commitments, has always regretted not finishing the Course.

Geoff continues to oversee his own business, is a keen yachtsman and continues to compete in national yachting regattas. He won the 2010 Sydney to Hobart yacht race as owner/skipper of "Secret Men's Business" and held the position of Commodore of the Cruising Yacht Club on South Australia for five years and continues to sit on its Board.

With these commitments Geoff has supported the 9RAR family as much as possible but now with a little more time, he looks forward to serving his 9RAR family in its support of their no-going service to our soldiers.

Simon Kelly became involved with the 9RAR Battalion Association in 2003 when on the strength of a recommendation from Rosa Garcia of the Migration Museum, John England, then Project Officer/Editor, approached him to assist with the Victory of Friendship - Spirit of Gallipoli project.

Simon was President of the History Teachers Association of SA, Vice President of the National Body and a senior teacher of Australian History at Rostrevor College at the time. His primary task was to contribute eight pages of educationally-focused, lesser known content to the project's commemorative booklet. He responded to this



Simon Kelly (left) and Geoff Boettcher

challenge, attended numerous planning meetings and along the way became involved in many of our activities, notably the 2007 visit to Turkey.

In recognition of his contributions to the Association, Simon was made an Inducted Member of the AGM on 10 November 2007. Since then he has continued to maintain his involvement.

He introduced us to his great friend, Rat of Tobruk and original 2/43rd Infantryman, Bill Corey, whom he brought to many 9RAR functions. Several members and partners attended Bill's funeral in October 2018.

Simon well remembers and appreciates the word of support and encouragement provided by Mick Mummery and other members before undertaking his role as Master of Ceremonies.

The 2nd/43rd Battalion Club continues through the work of relatives, descendants to friends including Simon of the veterans of the now passed.

Simon is the Catholic Education nominee to the Board of DVA's Veteran Children's Education System SA and NT. Interestingly he was a beneficiary of the system himself in his school and university years, through his father's service to the RAAF in WW2 resulting to total and permanent incapacitation.

He has been a member of Aboriginal Veterans' SA (AVSA) since 2016. AVSA aims to build recognition, respect and reconciliation through an understanding of shared service and sacrifice. Current President Mick Mummery is also a member of AVSA.

For 11 years Simon has also been the Catholic Education nominee to the Premier's ANZAC Spirit School Prize. Following a selection process based on a written entry and then interviews of short-listed applicants, successful students (and supervising teachers) are invited to participate in the State Government's fully-funded study tour to a country, subject to DFAT advice, in which Australian personnel served.

On a more personal note, Simon is married to Deb and they have two adult children, Rebecca and Matthew, and two grandsons, Alex and Charlie.

- Thanks to Jan Mummery

Appointment of Interim National Commissioner welcomed

Office of the Hon Darren Chester, Canberra
30 September 2020

The next step has been taken in the Federal Government's efforts to combat suicide in veterans and serving members of the Australian Defence Force with the appointment of the interim National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention.

1 October 2020

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel Darren Chester welcomed the announcement made by the Attorney-General Christian Porter today appointing Dr Bernadette Boss CSC (**pictured**) to this important role.

"The health and wellbeing of our veterans and ADF personnel is at the heart of the National Commissioner legislation and is part of the Government's commitment to putting veterans and their families first," Mr Chester said.

"The appointment of an interim commissioner is a significant step forward as we work to ensure our personnel and veterans have the help they need, when and where they need it when it comes to their mental health."

"I congratulate Dr Boss on her appointment as the interim National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention who will start working to identify and understand the factors and systemic issues that may contribute to suicide risk and provide recommendations to improve prevention efforts."

"Dr Boss started her career as a nurse, completing a Bachelor of Science in London and later studying law. She had a distinguished military career and has held inquests and hearings into complex deaths, including suicides."

"As a current Magistrate and Coroner in the Australian Capital Territory, Dr Boss has the skills and expertise to examine these tragic instances of ADF and veteran suicides to understand practical actions to reduce suicide risk."

This announcement builds on the Government's ongoing commitment to support the mental health and wellbeing of veterans and their families, including funding free mental health care for any mental health condition, improvements to transition and employment support, and assistance to those veterans particularly at risk.

"The Government is providing psychiatric assistance dogs for veterans with PTSD as a supplement to clinical mental health treatment — a program that veterans and their family members are telling me is changing their lives and saving lives," Mr Chester said.

"We continue to roll out a national program of more than 45 Open Arms Peer Workers who connect with veterans and family members who may be struggling with their mental health, bringing a lived experience of mental health issues and, importantly, of recovery."

"We have also invested in the Coordinated Client Support program to identify veterans at risk before



they transition out of service and provide them with a single point of contact as well as delivering increased employment support for ADF members looking for career development and job placement support as they set up for civilian life."

"In June, the Government extended the Provisional Access to Medical Treatment program, which delivers medical treatment to veterans for the top 20 most commonly accepted conditions while their claim is being considered, and the Wellbeing and Support Program, which provides intensive face-to-face case management services for highly vulnerable veterans who are transitioning or who have complex needs."

While legislation is currently before the Parliament to establish the role permanently, the National Commissioner will begin important work to strengthen our efforts toward suicide prevention, including conducting an independent review of past Defence and veteran suicides.

Following the passage of legislation, the National Commissioner will have enduring power, scope and resources to inquire into deaths by suicide, and will support future wellbeing and suicide prevention efforts, by identifying the need for any system-wide reforms, or new approaches to support ADF members and veterans.

"The National Commissioner will make recommendations to the Government about actions and strategies to prevent future suicides, and will report publicly on their findings to Parliament each year."

"The Government will be required to report on the progress of these recommendations, and the National Commissioner will have an ongoing role in monitoring the implementation of the recommendations it makes."

More information on how the Australian Government is supporting veterans and their families visit the DVA web site," Mr Chester said.

Open Arms — Veterans & Families Counselling provides free and confidential support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families. Help is available 24/7 on 1800 011 046 or visit the Open Arms web site.

Further information: National Commissioner's web site.

Greg "Spike" Dwiar's B Coy 2nd Tour remembered

I was sent to Vietnam as a reinforcement on 13 May 1969 and spent the first three weeks at 1 ARU, (Army Re-Enforcement Unit) and was posted to B Company 5RAR on 4 June along with about 10 other "Reos" (Reinforcements). We were allocated to either 4, 5 or 6 platoons. I was put into 6 platoon.

After meeting all the 'old hands' it was down to settling in and adjusting to the way it was done and a new learning process was about to begin.

The first day was spent collecting weapons, webbing, ammo etc. being shown where the weapon pits were, the 'gun position' for night pickets, and all the little things that you had to know and remember that were important for harmony within my new group for the next 12 months,

The next day started with a refresher training course on what the Company had learned from their last operation that had just finished. D Company was Ready-Reaction Company (on stand by), and B Company was on standby (backup).

Just after lunch we heard that D Company had been sent to Binh Ba to assist in a contact that had occurred between the VC and a troop of Centurion tanks. We were then put on 30-minute stand by to saddle up and help out. Around 1400hrs (2pm) that afternoon we were on the APCs and heading towards Binh Ba.

We were setup as a blocking force on the southern side of the village and secured the area from Route 2 to the perimeter of the rubber plantation and, from what I would call, a safe distance, witnessed the battle that had been going on for some time.

It was the first time I had seen the awesome fire power of the 'Bushranger Gunships', and the destruction of which they were capable. This attack lasted for some time and finished late in the afternoon.

That night we were to harbour up in the bottom corner of the rubber trees along with Company HQ. The 4 and 5 platoons were set up in blocking positions along the length of the rubber trees.

Pickets were set and rostered for the night and I was to share my shift with Don Campbell, the Section Commander from 0400hrs (4am) till 0600hrs (6am). I have to admit I didn't sleep too deeply that night, being not quite sure what was going to happen, looking and listening out into the darkness and thoughts going through my mind how to handle a contact.

Do I remember the drill? All the things I had been told and practiced back at Singleton and Ingleburn during training. Remember to aim low in the darkness, don't drop the front of the rifle, but lift the butt more, I had a couple of magazines all laid out in case I needed them in a hurry.

All was quiet during the night until about 0230hrs (2:30am) when 4 Platoon had a contact some 200 metres from our position. After that I think that was when I learnt how to sleep with my eyes and mind open. Don and myself were woken to replace the last picket. We moved onto the M60 for our shift.



We talked quietly between ourselves with Don taking the gun and me as No2. Don gave me plenty of reassurance as to what to do and how I should assist him if needed, at that stage the adrenaline was still running high but Don made me feel confident.

The rest of the night was quiet until 0600hrs, (6am) when Don gave me a nudge and said that someone is out in front of us, we could hear their voices, talking loudly and hurriedly among themselves, the next thing the M60 opened up and fired towards the voices, not the 5 round bursts that we had done in practice back home but a continuous burst, maybe 20 - 50 rounds, do you know how loud a M60 sounds from that distance?

At that stage I picked up my SLR and started to fire at where the enemy were located. There were red tracer going from our position and green tracer coming back in from theirs. At one stage I heard an almighty whoosh.

I found out later on that it was a RPG (Rocket Propelled Grenade), and it must have gone straight through our position and landed outside somewhere as I never heard it explode.

When the contact was finished and daylight became stronger, we went out to do a search and sweep of the area, and came to where they were positioned but failed to find any dead or wounded. In fact not even a blood trail; The only thing we found was the spot where they were firing from. All the rubber trees were bleeding white sap or latex at least seven or eight feet from the ground. So much for trying to aim low, but they returned us the same favour.

It suddenly dawned on me that I was outside the harbour perimeter and had not changed over my magazine from the initial contact. I took it off, put it in my map pocket and quickly replaced it with a fresh magazine. We returned to the harbour and had a quick breakfast and brew, and at that stage I had started to settle down and get myself back to normal.

It was during my brew that I wondered how many shots had I fired during my first contact.

I pulled the magazine out of my pocket and noticed that it was heavy and still had a couple of rounds in it, so I started to flick out the remaining bullets to work out how many shots I had fired in anger. I pushed out 1-2-3-4-5-6, there were still some in there, 7-8-9-10-11, what's going on I thought, 12-13-14-15-16, I couldn't work this out 17-18-19-20, a full magazine, still unable to work it out I checked all my magazines, nine still full and one on the SLR, I checked that one out and it was full as well, 200 rounds accounted for, the same amount I was issued before we left the 'Dat', at that stage it dawned on me when I realised, that when the initial contact

happened at 0600hrs, amid all the excitement, I had forgotten to take the safety catch off in the first place!

I had stuffed up in my first contact and never mentioned it to anyone until quite a few years later at a ANZAC Day reunion and it still brings a few laughs.

By Greg 'Spike' Dwiar
B Coy 2nd Tour

Infantryman would appreciate receiving articles and photos such as this one of Greg's and also Bill Wallace's which was in the August edition of Infantryman and the opinion piece by Michael von Berg in the same issue

The next issue will be early in the New Year so there is plenty of time to dig out your old records and photos.

**Email the Editor Penelope Forster at
penelopeforster01@gmail.com**

Please include photos with name separately from the text and a phone number in case of clarification.

Gumtree setting for RSLs joint Remembrance Day Ceremony



Above: Members of both RSL Sub Branches standing for the Ode and one minutes silence. Below right: Deputy Premier and Member for Bragg Vickie Chapman placing a wreath at the base of the cross. Left: Mayor of Burnside Anne Monceaux placing a wreath on behalf of all residents in the Burnside area.

Thanks to Club Manager Greg Dwiar for this article and the photos and help with this edition.



Remembrance Day was again this year was a joint service between RAR-RSL and Kensington Park RSL at the Kensington Park. Around 30 members attended to pay their respects to those from the districts who had lost their lives in foreign lands in both World Wars and conflicts till the present time. The Hon. Vickie Chapman, Member for Bragg, Deputy Premier representing the SA Government, with Hon. Mrs Anne Monceaux, Mayor of Burnside representing the Burnside Council, placed wreaths at the memorial cross with the gumtrees as a background.



Royal Australian Regiment Association Committee 2019-2020

Patron Laurie Lewis AM

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Treasurer and Webmaster Mike Bevan 0416 106 578
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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



Members: Our new phone number is 0480 197 739