



# INFANTRYMAN

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

April 2021

## Outstanding commemoration for Bangka Massacre



The 79th Anniversary ceremony of Radji Beach Massacre was held in the grounds of Government House on Sunday 14 February 2021. A large crowd witnessed and participated with the laying of wreaths and tributes arranged by the South Australian Women's Memorial Playing Fields Trust Inc. Among the guests was the Trust's Patron, the South Australian Governor's wife Mrs Lan Le. The guest speaker, who gave an outstanding address, was Wing Commander Sharon Bown (Retd) seen with Colonel Peter Scott DSO (Retd) and Colonel Don Beard AM RFD ED (Retd).

Address by Sharon Born on page 4

**Dawn Service.** The Adelaide Dawn Service will be limited to 1,000, including 750 members of the general public, and the area around the National War Memorial will be fenced off and access controlled.

**Commemorative March.** The March is limited to those who have served in the Australian armed forces or those of our allies, so no descendants groups. Full details pages 10-12

# Changes to staffing at the Partnerships Hub

Dear Leaders of the South Australian ex-service community.

I am writing to inform you Justin Brown (pictured), the inaugural Partnerships Hub Coordinator, has accepted a role outside of State Government and will be leaving the Veterans SA team. Justin's last day will be Friday 29 January.

I acknowledge Justin's departure may come as unsettling news to members of the veteran and wider community, and I want to reassure you the Partnerships Hub will continue to operate to support our shared community of veterans and their families.

The role Justin has played over the last two and a half years in supporting our South Australian veteran community by linking individuals to extended services is highly valued and important.

In recognition of the difference this role makes in helping our community, recruitment for a replacement will commence shortly.

Until then, the Hub's committed volunteers will maintain reduced with a roster at the Hub to make sure support services continue for both veterans and their families.

The new roster and other updates will be communicated with the veteran community through Veterans SA social media channels and the Veterans SA e-newsletter. I ask for your support in sharing this important information widely through your networks over the coming weeks.



Level 4, 151 Pirie Street  
Adelaide SA 5000  
08 8226 8544  
VeteransSA@sa.gov.au  
20 January 2021

When appointed, this position will have a key role in planning and implementing non-clinical support services for veterans and their families across both the Glenside and Repat Health Precincts strengthening the options available to our community from across two geographic sites.

Justin's work as the inaugural Partnerships Hub Coordinator has been steadfast, compassionate and greatly valued. Veterans SA and the Department for Health and Wellbeing thank and acknowledge Justin for his immense contribution to the Hub and the wider veteran community.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly to discuss your concerns.

Yours sincerely  
Catherine Walsh  
Director Veterans SA

## Hub a sharing, caring centre for veterans and families

The Hub was developed in response to recurring requests from the veteran community for a "one stop shop" to be included in the model of care and facility design of the Jamie Larcombe Centre (JLC).

Its purpose is to provide access to services offered by ex-service organisations (ESO) to encourage ESOs to collaborate and share expertise and resources to further meet the needs of veterans, and to provide serving and ex-serving members, their families and carers a focal point when seeking advice relating to state-based support agencies and programs.

A heritage listed building adjacent to The Jamie Larcombe Centre was identified for refurbishment and repurposing as the Hub and was officially opened by the Hon Steven Marshall MP, Premier of South Australia, on the 28 March 2018. The Hub's objectives are to:

- provide a welcoming environment in which veterans and their families can connect with each other and relevant service providers
- connect with ESOs and service providers to promote the Hub as a shared resource
- facilitate activities at the Hub in support of the clinical services model in place at the JLC
- provide resources including computers, printer, internet access, learning materials and information to visitors

- collaborate with and promote allied organisations and their activities to ensure greatest visibility amongst the veteran community
- host events for external organisations in support of veterans including employment networking and training programs
- establish regular communication mechanisms and channels to inform customers and promote all activities and events within and external to The Jamie Larcombe Centre
- develop key relationships with external organisations with a view to connecting The Jamie Larcombe Centre clients and the broader veteran community with social and professional opportunities
- Since opening the Hub in early 2018 a number of events and activities have been conducted including networking events, association meetings, therapy sessions and workshops. See the full list of services you can access at the Hub here.

If you would like to subscribe to the "What's on at the Hub" emails, contact the Partnerships Hub Coordinator, Justin Brown, at [JLCPartnershipHub@sa.gov.au](mailto:JLCPartnershipHub@sa.gov.au) or follow The Hub on Facebook.

Activities and events are also listed on the Events page.

# FROM THE COMMAND POST

## 4RAR back in the saddle in massive Army Restructure.

The article at page 18 by David Morris on the proposed restructure of the Australian Army over the next eight years has been a subject of considerable discussions and debate over the last six months and is in line with a reshaping, refocusing and rethinking our war fighting capacity into the immediate future.

Who knows what the long-term future will bring, but unless we plan and invest in the immediate term, we probably will not need to worry about planning for the long term as it will be planned for us by external forces over which we have no control?

Very interestingly, the British are going through a similar exercise, not too dissimilar and, although we are different Armies and not joined at the hip, we do share similar traditions and values.

After abandoning the Far East, Malaysia, and Singapore in the seventies, it is interesting to see that, as a part of the Brit strategic defence plan, they are thinking of re-establishing a regional defence hub in Singapore. How the wheel turns?

This can only be good for us as a part of "the five eyes" alliance and the more recent, "Quad" arrangement between India, Japan, the USA, and Australia.

There is a danger sometimes of too much complacency, and a bit of "she'll be right" and not worrying too much about geopolitical adventurism by others and only a somewhat cursory glance over our shoulders as to those who may want to harm us.

The consequences of that we saw after the fall of Singapore in 1942.

As a nation we are a huge resources strategic asset.

The world's largest uranium resources; the largest iron ore resources; one of the most secure food nations; and we have not even started to look seriously for rare earth minerals, which are going to drive the world further into the technical age.

These minerals are more important than uranium or iron

ore. We are only just recently starting to explore and survey more seriously for these rare earth minerals and looking at our large and ancient land mass, with time, hopefully we will be a major producer.

Not wishing to be an alarmist, but this makes us a desirable strategic target and we need to be mindful of that and supportive of our defence planning efforts.

As a part of the planning I am delighted 4RAR is being re-raised as an amphibious battalion as a part of 1st Brigade based in Darwin.

This wonderful old Battalion raised at Woodside in 1964 changed its role on 19 June 2009 where the battalion was renamed the 2nd Commando Regiment.

At that time, 4 RAR remained on the order of battle, with its colours and traditions maintained and protected, ready to be re-raised as a regular infantry battalion in the future if required. That time is in the immediate future and we are delighted for the Battalion and for all who have and will continue to serve.

We are an exceptionally large nation protected by an exceedingly small Defence Force by world military standards. But when looking at our traditions and history and the great young men and women serving in our armed forces today, I am sure, with the proposed new military and technical equipment, sound planning and strong leadership, we can defend our nation, with a little help from our friends.

Our resources are important but not as important as our way of life, our values and who we are as a nation and people.

Duty First

Michael von Berg MC OAM  
President

## 70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF KAPYONG

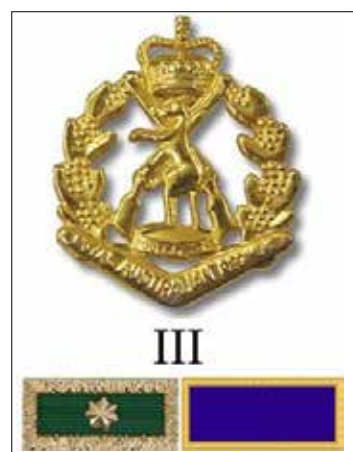
### Commemorative Service Linden Park 24 April 2021

On Saturday 24 Apr 2021 3 RAR SA will conduct a commemorative service for the Australian war dead from the Battle of Kapyong at the RAR Assoc. SA clubrooms at Linden Park.

The Service will be on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle and the five living veterans from the Battle residing in South Australia have been invited to attend the Service and lunch.

Because of the COVID restrictions attendance will be limited to only Invited Guests and ex-members of 3RAR.

Adrian Craig  
Ceremonial 3 RAR SA



# Define us not by how our stories ended, but how we lived

**Address by Wing Commander Sharn Born at 79th Anniversary ceremony of Radji Beach Massacre at Government House on 14 February 2021**

Good morning ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys, distinguished guests.

I welcome the veterans who have served, those who continue to serve and the families who love and support them.

As we say in the Air Force Association, we are united in service and sacrifice, and I thank you all for your service and for the sacrifices you have made and continue to make on behalf of our Nation.

We gather today to specifically commemorate the service and sacrifice of 21 Australian Nurses and to mark the 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day on which their lives were so brutally taken in the waters off Radji Beach.

We continue to remember and to reflect on the circumstances in which their young lives were ended, as theirs is a story of unimaginable human atrocity, committed during the deadliest human conflict in our living memory.

It is a moment in our history which should never be forgotten and one we must each strive to ensure never happens again.

Today, we also acknowledge the life of Vivian Bullwinkel, who survived execution and internment as a prisoner of war, and yet lived a life in the service of others, and in honour of her sisters who died beside her.

Amid the challenges of our own time, she is an example to us all, and I sincerely thank you all for coming together today, in their honour.

I am a proud Australian veteran. A Returned Service Nurse. I have devoted my life to providing care to the men, women and families of the Australian Defence Force and I have been privileged to provide life changing and lifesaving care to men, women, and families across the world. In doing so, I have come to understand one great indelible truth – life is momentary. It can only be lived one moment at a time, and no single moment of our lives will ever truly define who we are. We are shaped, created and defined by every moment of our lives.

When we pause to remember these women, we are justifiably horrified by the circumstances of their deaths, but here, today, I implore you to not allow them to be defined by that one moment. To never forget, and to never allow it to be forgotten, how these amazing young Australian women lived and all that they achieved in their lives.

Their lives shaped them to choose to become nurses and amid global adversity they chose to leave the safety of their homes in Australia, in the hope that others may live. In their final moments they chose to remain with the sick and injured, as Matron Irene Drummond reminded them, “while there is life, there is hope.”

They are so much more than names on a memorial, so much more than their uniforms or the roles they fulfilled, and their lives were so much more than the circumstances in which they died. They were daughters,

granddaughters, sisters, friends. Let us honour and celebrate their lives and their service as much as we commemorate and mourn their sacrifice.

Let us come to understand their individual stories, just as well as we know the story that binds them for eternity. Let us be inspired and ever thankful that they lived!

As a Registered Nurse, I have witnessed our veterans face significant adversity and I have witnessed them defiantly rise with resilience. They are better educated and better equipped than any generation of veterans that precedes them.

They are also required to be more adaptable to a diverse range of deployments than ever before.

Today's veteran has likely served on Peacekeeping operations; in war; in response to terrorist bombings; natural disasters such as tsunamis, earthquakes, bushfires and floods; international training and advisory roles; and today they are doing whatever they can to assist to protect Australia from a global pandemic – staffing hospitals, manning airports and border checkpoints and providing transport, logistics and health intelligence, to name just a few.

These young men and women are amazing. They may be justifiably proud to walk in the footsteps of those gone before them.

But for some of our veterans, the experience of adversity and challenge is far greater after their service, than it ever was in any war or operation.

Most Australian veterans enjoy good health. They lead happy and fulfilling lives, built upon the firm foundation of their Defence service. And that is exactly what we want for them. For some Australian veterans however, it is challenging to accept and progress past the fact that service life has ended. Navigating the pathway from service life to civilian life can be turbulent for a veteran and their family. It is a period known as “transition” and several mitigable factors have been identified, as making this experience a potentially challenging one.

For me, I joined the Australian Defence Force to serve my country. This privilege filled me with immense pride. But when I learnt that, due to the injuries sustained in the course of my service, I was no longer fit to serve, that immense pride was replaced with grief and shame.

My sense of purpose, value and respect was deeply enmeshed in my service. I tied my worth to my uniform. My uniform was my identity. It told a story about me – my service, my rank, my name and title, my operational experience. When I no longer wore the uniform, I and many others defined me by how my service ended, not by how it was lived.

I no longer carry that shame. It remains true that I am not physically fit enough to serve, but that does not diminish the pride and sense of achievement I feel for having served. It does not diminish the promise of the life that still lay ahead of me. The life built upon the foundation of my Defence service.

Life is momentary. Lived one moment at a time, no single moment of my life will define who I am.

# Hearts that RISE: One Woman's War and Peace



Sharon Bown is no stranger to trauma.

For 27 years she has studied, witnessed and survived it. She will tell you she has also grown from it.

Born and raised in Hobart, Tasmania, Sharon served as a Nursing Officer in the Royal Australian Air Force for 16 years.

She deployed to Timor-Leste in 2000 and again in 2004, where she narrowly escaped death twice – first in a near-fatal helicopter crash and again during the surgery which followed.

Having fought for her life, Sharon took on the colossus of the Australian Defence Force to overcome her injuries and to fight to save her career.

She exceeded all expectations and in 2008 was appointed to command in a theatre of war – Afghanistan.

A Registered Nurse with a Bachelor of Psychological Science, Sharon translates the contemporary research surrounding resilience, mindset, and posttraumatic growth, and explores the strategies that can transform personal trauma into personal growth.

## Stories ended, but let's remember how they lived

### Continued from previous page

While some veterans may grieve the loss of their service, may this never diminish the fact they served. May it never diminish the promise of life that still lay ahead of them.

Let us shift the narrative surrounding our veterans from one of challenges to one of achievements. From adversity to resilience. From post-traumatic stress to post-traumatic growth. Let us not be defined by the way in which our stories end, but by the magnificent pages and chapters that make us who we are.

Let us honour and celebrate life as much as we commemorate and mourn sacrifice.

While we must never forget how our Australian service nurses died on Radji Beach, nor the great sorrow felt by those who remain, we must equally never forget how they lived.

When I pause to listen to these nurses, those who went before me, and forged a path for me to follow, I hear one resounding request:

“Define us not by how our stories ended,  
but by how they were lived.”

In the words of John McRae, a Canadian doctor who served in the First World War: “Short days ago we lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,

Loved and were loved. To you from failing hands we throw the torch; be yours to hold it high. In honour of our nurses, in honour of all Australian veterans and their families, let us grab that torch with both hands and hold it high.”

Sharon is the award-winning author of “One Woman's War and Peace: A nurse's journey in the RA Air” and as a Registered Nurse now serves as a Member of the Council of the Australian War Memorial and as an Ambassador for Phoenix Australia – Centre for Posttraumatic Mental

## Operation Overlord and Battle of Long Khanh 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Service June 7

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Operation Overlord including the Battle of Long Khanh will be commemorated at the Vietnam National Memorial, Anzac Parade, Canberra, on Monday, 7 June 2021 at 10.30am.

The service, organised by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, will include virtually the whole of 1 Task Force in Vietnam on that date.

Associations of units involved are 3RAR, 4RAR supported by C Squadron 1 Armoured Regiment, A Squadron 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Regiment, 4 Field and 12 Field Regiments, 1 Field Squadron RAE, 161 Reconnaissance Flight and 9 Squadron RAAF.

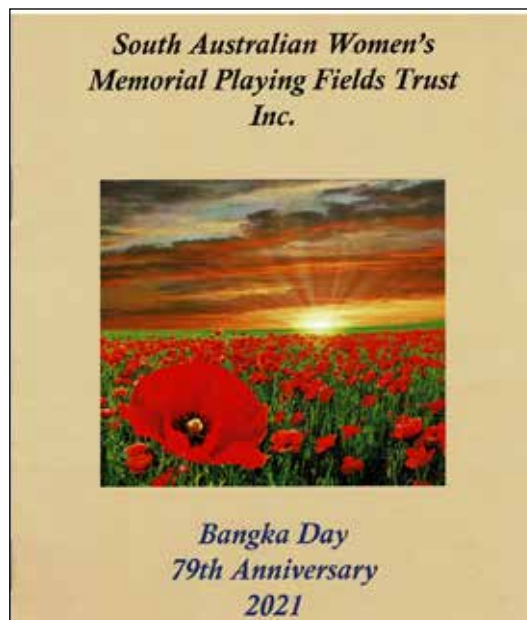
Also supporting the operation was US Army 2/8 Battalion, US Army Battery C 5/42 Artillery and US Army Assault Helicopter Company.

The service will be broadcast by the two ABC Channels from 10.30am to 11.30am on the day including the wreath laying to recognise the eight soldiers and two airmen who lost their lives during the operation.

In addition to this service ceremonies and wreath laying for those who paid the supreme sacrifice will be conducted at the Australian War Memorial at 5 pm June 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9th to recognise those members of 3RAR and 9 Squadron RAAF who gave their lives during 1971.

Unit dinners are to be held and there will a music event 'Vietnam Requiem' arranged by the Australian War Memorial on the afternoon of Saturday 5 June and Sunday 6 June at the ANU School of Music, Canberra.

**See page 15 for background to Vietnam Requiem.**



# Bangka Massacre nurses honoured at 79th Anniversary



*Group of the nursing staff of 2/13th Australian General Hospital in Singapore, September 1941. Six of these nurses, including Vivian Bullwinkel (below) were in the group which was massacred. Bullwinkel is standing sixth from the left.*

On 12 February 1942 the royal yacht of Sarawak Vyner Brooke left Singapore just before the city fell to the Imperial Japanese Army. The ship carried many injured service personnel and 65 nurses of the Australian Army Nursing Service from the 2/13th Australian General Hospital, as well as civilian men, women and children. The ship was bombed by Japanese aircraft and sank. Two nurses were killed in the bombing; the rest were scattered among the rescue boats to wash up on different parts of Bangka Island.



About 100 survivors reunited near Radji Beach at Bangka Island in the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) including 22 of the original 65 nurses. Once it was discovered the Japanese held the island, an officer of the Vyner Brooke went to surrender the group to the authorities in Muntok.

While he was away army matron Irene Melville Drummond, the most senior nurses, suggested the civilian women and children should leave for Muntok, which they did. The nurses stayed to care for the wounded and set up a shelter with a Red Cross sign.

At mid-morning the ship's officer returned with about 20 Japanese soldiers. They ordered all the wounded men capable of walking to travel around a headland.

The men were lined up and the Japanese set up machine guns. Stoker Lloyd realising what was going to happen ran into the sea as did a few others. The Japanese then began shooting at the escaping men. They were all killed apart from Lloyd who, despite being shot, managed to get away. He lost consciousness and later was washed up on the other side of the beach.

The nurses heard a quick succession of shots before the Japanese soldiers came back, sat down in front of the women and cleaned their bayonets and rifles. A Japanese officer ordered the remaining 22 nurses and one civilian woman to walk into the surf. A machine gun was set up on the beach and when the women were waist deep, they were machine-gunned. All but Bullwinkel were killed. Wounded soldiers left on stretchers were bayoneted and killed.

When Lloyd regained consciousness he made his way back to the scene of the massacre and discovered the bodies of those who had been shot.

Shot in the diaphragm, Bullwinkel lay motionless in the water until the sound of troops had disappeared. She crawled into the bush and lay unconscious for several days. When she awoke, she encountered Private Patrick Kingsley, a wounded British soldier who had survived being bayoneted by the Japanese. She dressed his wounds and her own and met Stoker Lloyd. They

both agreed it would be better to surrender as they couldn't survive much longer in such harsh condition. 12 days later Bullwinkel and Kingsley surrendered to the Japanese. Kingsley died before reaching a POW camp, but Bullwinkel spent three years in one.

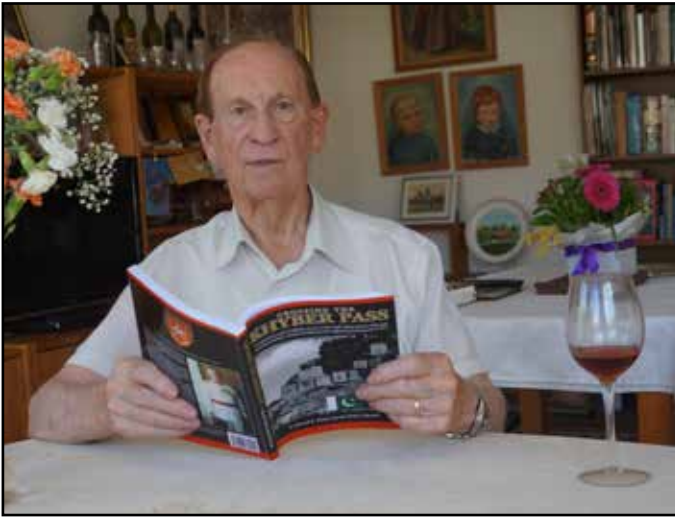
Lloyd surrendered after them and spent the rest of the war as a POW. When his camp was liberated he ensured the authorities knew of the surviving nurses and kept looking for them. This was instrumental in them being found as the Japanese denied any knowledge of them and their camp was deep in the jungle.

Bullwinkel survived the war and gave evidence of the massacre at the International Military Tribunal for the Far East (Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal) in 1947

Recent evidence collected by historian Lynette Silver, broadcaster Tess Lawrence and biographer Barbara Angell, indicates most of the nurses were raped before they were murdered. However, Bullwinkel was not permitted to speak about the rapes after the war, saying she had been "gagged" by the Australian government. According to the Australian government, the perpetrators of the massacre remain unknown and "escaped any punishment for their crime".

In SA annual commemoration known as the Bangka Day Memorial Service has been held at the Women's Memorial Playing Fields, St Marys, on the Sunday closest to 16 February since 1955. A plaque commemorating the nurses who died, including Drummond and six others was erected at the site. - Wikipedia

# Attaché's record of Khyber Pass appointment enthralling



*Above left: Infantryman Co-Editor Bruce Forster was so engrossed in reading Peter Scott's book "Crossing the Khyber Pass" even bedtime didn't deter his concentration after (centre) reading it throughout the afternoon. Right: Editors Penelope and Bruce giving a review of the book to club members one Friday evening. The Mayor of Burnside Mrs Anne Monceaux was among those who purchased a book.*

Once you start reading Peter's new book "Crossing the Khyber Pass" it's nearly impossible to put it down. It's fascinating, educational, captivating, engrossing and spell-binding and includes some fun recollections.

He lets readers into the personal account of his military service at the Staff College in Quette in 1958 and as an Australian Defence Attache in Pakistan and Afghanistan during 1973-75 - AND the amazing experiences out of working hours.

He prepared it for publication in six months - that's unbelievable. Two hundred pages of his fascinating life at that time with historical background about the countries in the area - some accounts separately to his work and life.

There are many photos, some diagrams and an annexe with letters and details including "Duties of a Defence Attache."

He makes readers feel as if they were there experiencing the difficulties of moving and coping with purchasing and packing requirements and social activities while wondering if they, the readers, would have had the

stamina which both he and his wife had to undertake these exhausting responsibilities .

He says he would not have been able to write this book if it hadn't been that his late wife, Gwenda, who kept remarkably detailed diaries throughout the years.

Gwenda travelled with Peter when and wherever she could in such places as Afghanistan, Agra, India, Islamabad, Kabul, Kandahar, Karachi, Kashmir, Lahore, etc. She coped with the staff provided wherever they lived, planned many official dinners, cocktail parties and receptions learning about the local culture as she did so.

This is a well presented book which will appeal not only to army people but to a very wide cross-section of the those interested in a life they will never undertake themselves. Peter's book was officially launched on Wednesday 24 February at the Drill Hall, Torrens Parade Ground.

**Price: \$30 plus \$10 postage and handling.**

**Bank details: ANZ BSB 015627 A/C No 582107472 in the name of F P Scott and advise your address using Peter's email [psscott1@internode.on.net](mailto:psscott1@internode.on.net)**

## Close friend Lt. Col. Don Stewart book seller for Peter Scott

Lieutenant Colonel Don Stewart (Retd) is a South Australian who grew up in Adelaide.

He was called up for two years National Service in 1965, commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, and served with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, initially in Borneo during Indonesian Confrontation and later in South Vietnam.

Remaining in the Army he subsequently served in in 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Pacific Islands Regiment in PNG and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment. Formal training included Army staff college and Joint Services Staff College.

He also spent a year with a peacekeeping force in the Sinai, Egypt. What turned out to be his final posting was back in Adelaide at Keswick Barracks where duties



*Col. Don Stewart in charge of sales of Peter's book.*

included three years as Army Area Representative for South Australia.

After over 30 years Army service Don became the General Manager of the Legacy Club of Adelaide (now Legacy SA and Broken Hill), a position he held for 13 years.

He and his family had been assisted by Legacy during his early teenage years after his WWI veteran father died.

He remains active in Legacy as a volunteer and is presently a Director of both Legacy SA and Broken Hill Inc and Legacy Australia Inc.

Don held the honorary appointment of Regimental Colonel, The Royal South Australia Regiment, for seven years and recently concluded some 18 years membership of its Regimental Council.

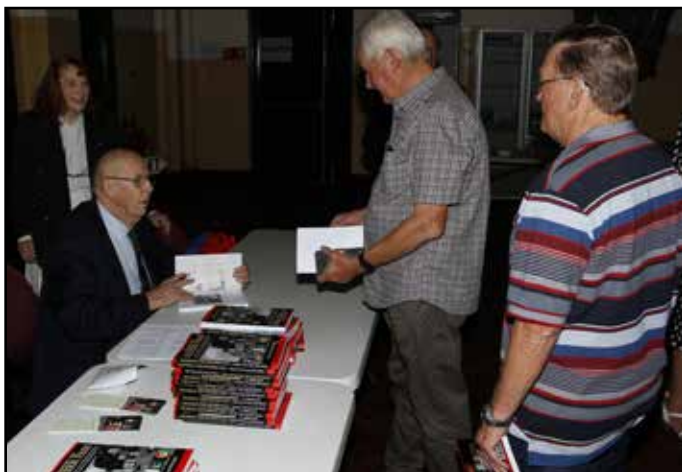
## Fascinating background to author, his book and guests as



*The Governor of SA the Honourable Hieu Van Le, AC with Peter Scott and Dr Donald Beard.*



*From left: Col. Peter Scott with Australian War Memorial historian Michael Kelly of Canberra, Dr Donald Beard and Lt. Col. (Retd.) Patrick Forbes.*



*3RAR "My Boys" David White and Bob Whelan collecting their autographed copies of the book from Peter Scott. Infantryman Co- Editor Penelope Forster in the background. Below: Some of the guests .*



The well attended launch of the book *Crossing The Khyber Pass* by Colonel F. Peter Scott DSO (Retd.) was opened by Sharyn Roberts of the Virtual War Memorial with the words "the speakers today are all well known to most of us – most particularly our first speaker." She continued:

**The Governor of SA the Honourable Hieu Van Le, AC**, himself an outstanding teller of stories. Those he shares with connect himself and his wife, Lan, to our veteran community are without doubt among the most compelling.

A highly educated and accomplished business and management professional His Excellency began his distinguished service to the community of South Australia in August 2007, when he was sworn in as its Lieutenant Governor. On 1 September 2014 His Excellency was sworn in as Governor of South Australia and it is understood His Excellency is the first Vietnamese-born person who has ever been appointed to a Vice-Regal position in the world and I know that as a community we all rejoiced at you being so honoured. Across both appointments he has been an outstanding patron for a wide array of causes, currently numbering more than 200 organisations (including VWMA) and he always supported by Mrs Lan.

### The author

Francis (Peter) Scott was born in Elsternwick, Victoria, in 1929 (we will not hold that against him).

A keen cadet during his school days, Peter joined the Royal Military College Duntroon in 1946, graduated as a Lieutenant in the Australian Staff Corps and was allotted to infantry in December 1948.

Peter was serving with 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR) in Japan with the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces (BCOF) when the Korean War broke out. He subsequently served in Korea with 3RAR as a Platoon Commander and was Mentioned-in-Dispatches for his work as Intelligence Officer during the Battle of Maryang San.

A graduate of the Pakistan Army Staff College in Quetta, Pakistan, and the US Army Command and Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, USA, Peter returned to instruct at the Australian Staff College, Queenscliff, in 1966. He commanded 3RAR from 1969-1971, including an operational tour of Vietnam in 1971 for which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, South



# Governor launches engrossing Khyber Pass recollections

Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, and US Army Commendation Medal.

Peter was subsequently appointed Military Assistant to the Minister of the Army. From 1973-1975 he was promoted Colonel as Defence Attaché to Pakistan and Afghanistan and later Commander 2nd Military District, Sydney.

Peter retired in 1983 after 37 years of service and understanding South Australia was 'the' place to be made the move. Peter is very active in several ex-service organisations, twice as Legacy President and is a published author of many books including 'Command in Vietnam' published in 2007 and 'The Forgotten War' published in 2020. It is his latest, Crossing the Khyber Pass, which brings us here today.

## The interviewer

Steve Larkins OAM was born in Sydney, and first came to Adelaide in the late 70s as a newly commissioned Army Officer posted to the 3rd Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment at Woodside. He returned in 1994 with his family to commence a new career 'post-Army'. Since 1996 he has held a variety of senior business roles in Adelaide across Association Management, Recruiting and for 14 years as head of a Construction Training Agency.

He also served in senior leadership roles in the Army Reserve from 1996-2010 retiring as the Deputy Brigade Commander responsible for Training in SA & Tasmania.

He retired from full time work in 2017 but undertakes occasional consulting tasks and keeps very busy.

He has been actively involved with the following organisations: Operation Flinders, Rotary, the RSL and the National Trust.

A self-confessed military history tragic he has regularly lead Battlefield Tours to the Western Front, Normandy and Gallipoli and has conducted a very popular program at the Naval Military and Air force Club for the past four years.

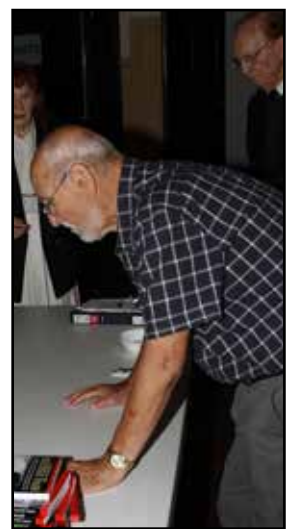
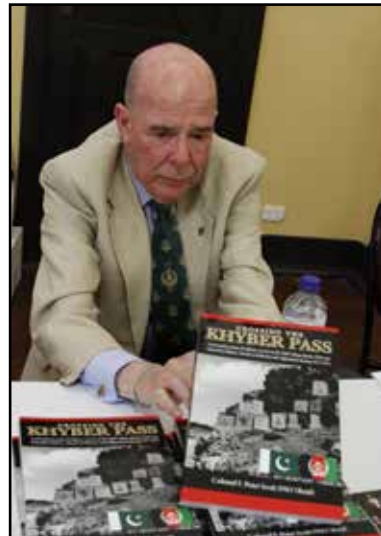
We recognise Steve as the instigator of Virtual War Memorial Australia. He remains a passionate advocate, content researcher and writer, and is our Ambassador Commemoration and Community. The award of an OAM in 2019 honour his valued contributions to many organisations – most especially VWMA.



*The Governor Honourable Hieu Van Le, AC and Peter Williams, Chairman of the Virtual War Memorial, welcomed to the book launch by author Peter Scott at Torrens Training Depot.*



*Interviewer Steve Larkin and author Peter Scott*



*In charge book sales was Lt. Col. Don Stewart (Retd.) Right: Errol Morelli with Bruce Forster in background.*

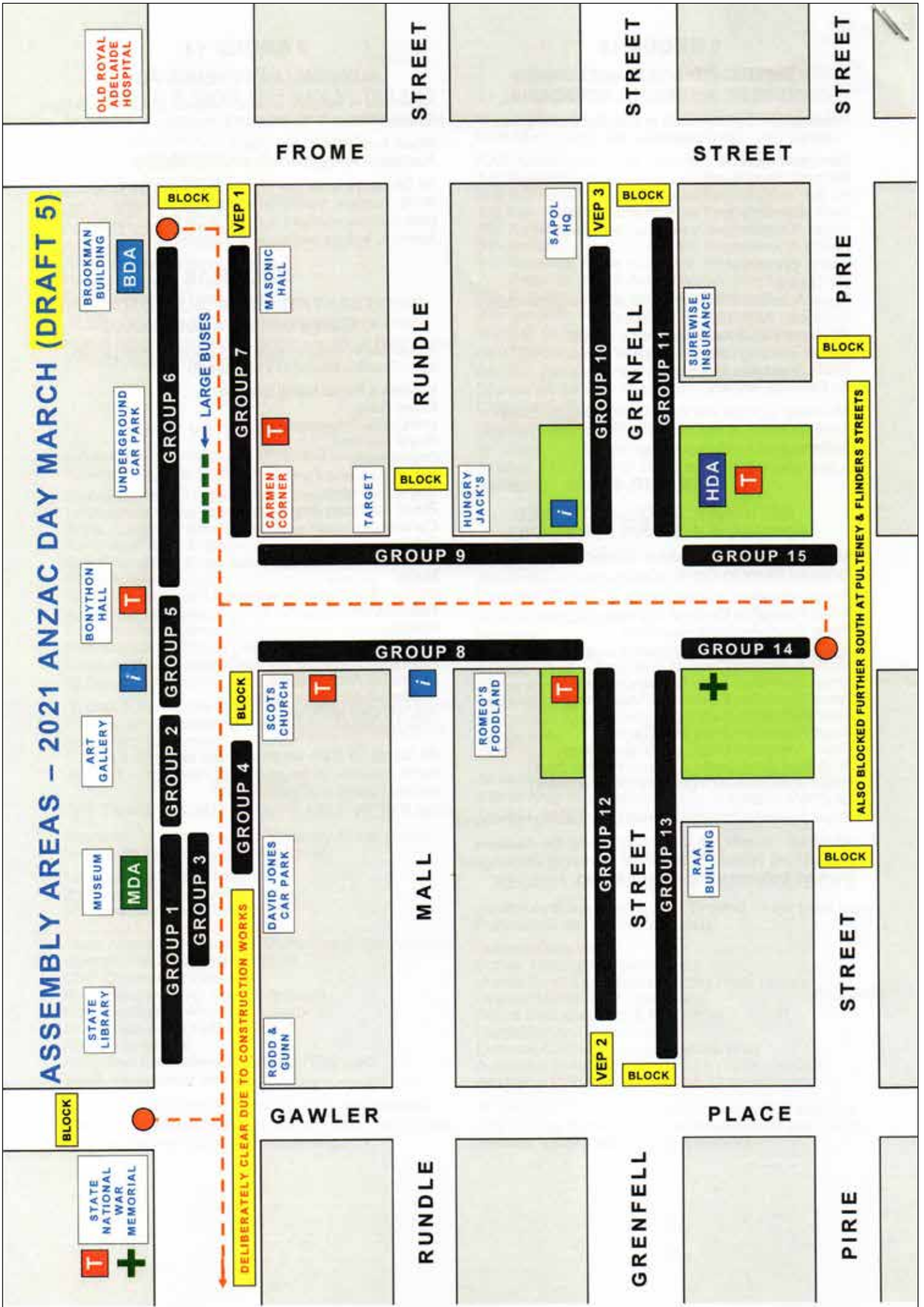


*Peter Williams, Chairman of the Virtual War Memorial, reading the greeting from the High Commissioner of Pakistan Babar Amin, MC Sharyn Roberts of the Virtual War Memorial and author Peter Scott during the launch.*



*"My Boys" David White and Jeff Barrett collecting their copies of the book from author Peter Scott  
Infantryman - April 2021*

# ASSEMBLY AREAS – 2021 ANZAC DAY MARCH (DRAFT 5)



# Adelaide ANZAC Day Commemorative March 2021



## OVERVIEW OF THE MARCH

The Adelaide ANZAC Day Commemorative March will be conducted in a COVID environment. The COVID Safe Plan for the March has been approved by SA Health.

2021 is the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the RAAF and the RAAF will have a guard behind the Grand Marshals as well as key roles in the Adelaide Dawn Service.

The Australian Army and the Royal Australian Navy will have guards in Group 14 with 9 Brigade providing the former.

Current members of 7 RAR will march within Group 9 as part of the 7 RAR SA Association.

8/9 RAR National has/will ask its South Australian members to advise the Ceremonial Manager RAR Assoc. SA if they wish to march behind a 8/9 RAR sign.

Ex-members of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Commando Regiments will join Group 9 and march behind a COMMANDO REGIMENTS sign.

As a COVID precaution there will not be any community bands within the March.

Four bands (10/27 RSAR, Army Band Adelaide, RAN Band South Australia and SAPOL) will be positioned on North Terrace between the State National War Memorial Adelaide and the main entrance to Government House and play marching music (one band at a time) and this will be piped to loudspeakers along the March Route.

Spectators of the March will have their own QR Codes placed on lamp and other posts along the March Route for their use.

These QR Codes are **NOT** to be used by Marching Veterans (see below). Spectators may be immediate family of Marching Veterans or the general public.

In addition three senior officers and their wives have been approved to watch the March from the Southern Spectator Stand (which will be on the northern side of the Pathway of Honour). This stand will have wheelchair access.

There will not be any car parking on the Torrens Parade Ground except for Staff and those persons in the Spectator Stand. They will be issued with passes.

There will be an increased SAPOL presence before, during and after the March to ensure that COVID precautions are applied with.

There will not be any Descendants Groups (normally Groups 16-20) in the March.



## GROUP 9 IN COMMEMORATIVE MARCH

### Assembly Area

The Assembly Area for Group 9 will be on the Eastern Side of Pultney Street from North Terrace to Grenfell Street. Diagram page 10.

### March Formation within Units

This will be four abreast at Open Order. This includes those carrying War Dead Flags.

### Order of March

President RAR Assoc. SA's Party.

RAR Battalions in order of seniority (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 2/4, 5/7 and 8/9 RAR).

### ASASR

Commando Regiments (as one section within Group 9).

The length of Group 9 is double that of recent years (COVID Precautions) and the Plan is for 3 RAR and units forward of it to be North of Rundle Street and 4 RAR and behind to be South of Rundle Street. This may need to be adjusted by the Ceremonial Manager on the day.

### COVID Precautions

Each unit within Group 9 will have a unique QR Code. Members are encouraged to bring their mobile phones to use their unit's QR Code contact tracing. Those without mobile phones or unable to use the QR Code should bring their own biro to enter details on their own unit's paper Contact Tracing List. Each unit is to have a responsible person to control this and before step off hand the Lists to the COVID Marshals (there will be four in Group 9 provided by the ANZAC Day Committee).

If necessary SAPOL will enforce compliance with the COVID precautions.

# Adelaide ANZAC Day Commemorative March 2021

## Timings

This is going to be a unique March and with all of the COVID Precautions flexibility and consideration will be required by all concerned.

Hence all those wishing to March should be in their units Assembly Areas by 9.00 am. The head of the March steps off at 9.30 am.

Road Closures to the March Assembly Areas will be at 8.00 am. The RAR Association SA vehicle with the units banners will come into and out of the Assembly Area via Vehicle Entry Point 3 and will have a Pass to do so.

## Banners and War Dead Flags

The unit banners usually on display in the RAR Assoc. SA Clubrooms will remain in location during the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong Commemorative Service on 24 April 2021.

Units which wish to have other banners transported to and from the March should have them in the Meeting Room at the Clubrooms by 24 April 2021.

The Banners on display will be pulled down and packed after the Kapyong Service and loaded on 25 April after the Light Up the Dawn Service and delivered to the Group 9 Assembly Area around 8.00 am. The Ceremonial Manager will place these on the Eastern side of Pultney Street at the anticipated head of each unit.

After the March the Banners and War Dead Flags are to be carried forward to the RAR Assoc. vehicle North of Pennington Terrace on Sir Edwin Smith Avenue, repacked and loaded onto the vehicle to return to the Clubrooms.

Signs for 8/9 RAR and the Commando Regiments will be provided by the ANZAC Day Committee and delivered to the Group 9 Assembly Area

## March Route

The March Route will be:

From Pultney Street onto North Terrace.

Along the South side of North Terrace (the construction works indicated should not cause a problem).

Swing onto King William Road and North to the junction of Kind William Road and Sir Edwin Smith Ave North of the Adelaide Bridge.

All units wheel half right on to Sir Edwin Smith Avenue and continue Northeast before halting and dismissing at Pennington Terrace (if you stop too early the later units will not be clear of the junction).

## Paying of Compliments during the March

All marchers are to pay compliments at the following three official Saluting Points along the March Route:

The State National War Memorial.

The South African War Memorial.

The Vice-Regal Saluting Point west of Torrens Parade Ground,

Units may wish to pay compliments at the Pathway of Honour and the Defence Health Services Memorial.

Yellow unit identification signs (8/9 RAR and The Commando Regiments) are to remain upright and facing

the front except at the Vice-Regal Saluting Point where there are to be turned half-right.

**Unit banners are to be dipped for all salutes.**

Australian National Flags including War Dead Flags need not be dipped at any Saluting Points.

Gentlemen wearing non-military headdress are requested to remove same at each official saluting point.

## Dress

Dress should be appropriate to the solemn Commemorative March.

## Disabled Veterans Transport

There will be a number of buses for the transportation of Disabled Veterans in the March. Units are requested to send their lists of those requiring this transport to the Ceremonial Manager by Easter.

## OTHER ANZAC DAY MATTERS

### Youth Vigil Adelaide

This will be conducted on the night of 24/25 April 2021 with COVID Precautions reducing attendance to immediate family only

### Adelaide Dawn Service

Invitations will be issued to Principal Guests and for one representative per ESO. It will be telecast by the ABC up to their cut-off.

### Light Up the Dawn

This will encouraged again and is likely to become the norm every year. The RAR Association SA will conduct a Service at the Clubrooms.

### Cross of Sacrifice Service

This Service will be conducted after the March with attendance limited to Invited Guests and members of the public who have booked online.

### Post-march Social on Torrens Parade Ground after the March

The normal Post-march social activities will be conducted on the Torrens Parade Ground with the principal stakeholder being the Avoca Hotel. Drinks may be at reduced prices.

The contact for Ceremonial Manager RAR Association SA is Adrian Craig 8263 4784 [as.craig9rar@bigpond.com](mailto:as.craig9rar@bigpond.com)

### State Library welcomes

#### 'Infantryman' - more needed

The State Library has agreed to take copies of Infantryman. Those already at the Library taken by Penelope and Bruce are:

August and December 2018

April, August and December 2019

April, August and December 2020.

Penelope has:

December 2008 - Editor Mal Allen

November 2019 - Editor Penelope

August 2020 - Editor Penelope

December 2020- Editor Penelope

Those with copies they can spare are asked to put them in the office with Penelope's name.

# First hand account of Operation bushranger - Somalia 1993

Hi folks, my name is Greg Hoppood. I was a young soldier in 1 RAR posted to Somalia in 1993.

I can tell you about some incident of my time in Somalia.

To be quite honest I do not feel comfortable writing this story because I believe people probably are not interested, but I will give it a go.

So, this night our platoon had been briefed by our platoon Commander that the battalion was to clear an area around our area of operations (AO). I was the forward scout of 2 section 7 platoon Charlie Company. We were first out leading the battalion and myself and another private (Pte) in the rifle group I will call Macca.

My orders were to assist Reconnaissance (Recon Sniper) into a three storey building so they could cover the battalion move.

They were equipped with thermal imagery and snipe rifle as they were the elite of the battalion. Once we were to assist them we then had to exit the building and move back into formation with 7 platoon and cover and clear ground in the dark of night.

Well, once our platoon approached the sniper's position Baidoa Government abandoned building me and Macca cleared rooms and stairwells with the recon snipers. I was quite comfortable and did not expect any resistance. I entered the 2nd floor of the building with my night vision goggles and soon discovered three Somali fighters asleep on the floor.

I trained my rifle on them and took my night vision off and turned on my flashlight. One Somali woke up and reached for his M 16 rifle but was quickly subdued by a rifle butt by a sniper. The other one woke but we managed to kick their AK-47's away from them. They zip tied up and the recon snipers took to their positions to cover the battalion move.

Macca and I then proceeded to exit the building and connect with our waiting section. This is where it all started to go wrong - there was no one waiting for us. They had continued patrolling and our company had moved past, all 3 platoons!

So, I scanned the area with my night vision but could not see anyone only, the odd Somali civilians. Macca and I were unsure what to do.

We had no communications but I had a rough idea of where the platoon was heading on a compass bearing I was given and a map which was completely useless. So I said follow me and hoped I would bump into the rear of a Charley Company section.

After 30 minutes of quickly moving and moving out of the urban area into the desert we soon realised we were on our own.

I said to Macca there is a whole battalion out there somewhere about there was no sign of anyone! Frustration kicked in then I soon realised the sun would be up within an hour. We had to make a constructive decision. So I found a creek bed and Macca and I sat back to back protecting ourselves if misfortune came our way.

A hasty decision had to be made we certainly could not hide out in the creek bed all day.



If we were spotted we would quickly get out in the middle of nowhere and we would become easy targets.

So, I said to Macca if we cross over this terrain and head in this direction we will be back at our firm base at the airfield, under the cover of darkness.

It had risks but it was the only solution I could think of. I kitted back up and just as I stood up I was staring down the barrel of a forward scout from Bravo company, I froze and thankfully the scout recognised me and Macca. There was an immediate sense of relief, then some embarrassing explaining to do. I explained my situation to the major (Officer in Command of Bravo Company).

He asked if I was the forward scout of 2 section 7 platoon who is scouting for that section now? That I could not answer.

But I knew my number two must have just kept patrolling thinking I was 30 metres up front of him, so to save embarrassment the whole situation was never investigated. Some of my mates from Bravo were laughing and hacking on me in jest but it could have turned out ugly if we were never found by Bravo Company.

So, the operation continued and I tagged along with a platoon for the rest of the operation. Bravo company established communications with Charlie Company to let them know we were safe.

Nothing was really achieved in that operation, but a few weapons seized and seeing a few skeletal remains of some Somalis in ditches and down a well.

Once midday approached, I managed to get reconnected with my section.

In all honesty it was not our fault. We should have been accounted for after escorting the snipers onto the roof top.

But that's history and mistakes were made, but 27 years later it gives me a chuckle and something to tell.

# Royal Commission sought on service suicide prevention

The Royal Australian Regiment Corporation

20<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
[fadt.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto: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 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 10 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 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.



Maj Gen Stuart Smith  
AO DSC (retd), Gwen  
Cherne and Don  
Spinks AM.



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 (retd) – 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 of 400 suicides and those findings delivered to the Parliament in 18 months seems a task too far.

# Royal Commission sought on service suicide prevention

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.

## IAGDF 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 the Opposition were against this appointment with the Greens and seeking a Royal Commission, what guarantee 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 organization supporting this Commissioner rather than a Royal Commission was based on the muted powers of the Commissioner and the fact is 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 an 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  
Email [mvb@michaelvonberg.com](mailto:mvb@michaelvonberg.com)  
Mobile 0411 870 055

## 2 RAR/NZ South Vietnam 1970/71 50th Anniversary Reunion 30th May to 6th June 2021



### 2RAR/NZ (ANZAC) BATTALION

The Reunion for 2020 has had to be cancelled however we are now on for 2021.  
PLEASE NOTE - ALL Activities LIMITED TO 300 people due to COVID

Mon 31 May - RSL 4pm Meet and greet (\$15pp)  
Tues 1 June - Back to the Battalion 10 am (\$25pp)  
Wed 2 June - RSL 11am Reunion Luncheon (\$35pp)  
Thu 3 June - Coy Platoon Activities  
Fri 4 June - Coy Platoon Activities  
Sat 5 June—Reunion Dinner (\$70pp)

2RAR.Reunions@gmail.com

If you have any question please Email the above  
Email or Ring  
Jason Harrison - 0419749198  
Mal Gray - 0428588431  
Rick Avery - 0419415365

## LIGHT UP THE DAWN

Light Up the Dawn was an idea which originated within the Australian community, and was supported and promoted across Australia in a year of great challenge and change. As the sun peeked above the horizon, the country stood united – in uniforms or pyjamas, wearing medals, poppies and sprigs of rosemary – to let Australia’s veterans know that their service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Based on the tremendous community response to this initiative, we will again help Australians to come together in 2021, in their driveways, on their balconies, or in their living rooms at 6am to commemorate Australia’s deeply held ANZAC traditions. RSL will produce a shortened personal service and participation kits for use across our community.

## Former RARA President helps fireproof SA with watertank project

A \$600,000 multi-year gift from Masonic Charities is helping the Country Fire Service strategically place water tanks in some of South Australia's most vulnerable areas. The Masonic-branded fire water tanks are being placed in areas controlled by the CFS and identified as being high-risk due to their lack of water sources.

CFS Chief Officer Mark Jones said: "The CFS depends on reliable water supplies, often needing them most when they are least likely to be available. Masonic Charities generous actions in undertaking a project to establish a network of water tanks across the state will bolster the CFS's resources and access to private and public water supplies. They are an investment South Australians for years into the future."

The first gift of \$131,782.82 from the Grandmaster's Bushfire Appeal was presented to CFS officials Lee Watson, Director Operational Infrastructure, and Andrew Stark, Deputy Chief Officer, at the Grand Lodge on December 2

In his address to the CFS Grand Master Dr Neil Jensen said: "We are cognizant of the effects on mental health of these traumatic events and have devoted further resource to developing a free online mental health self-help tool to assist all people across SA and the NT who are subjected to severe stressors of the nature of bush fires, covid-19 virus and other losses and struggles in life. This will help to identify and better manage mental health issues at a time when such resources are scarce and demand increasing.



ABC presenter Spence Denny (left) and Brigade Captain Upper Sturt CFS Moose Dunlop OAM examine the tank installed at Harrogate.

"The Freemasons of SA and the NT, through the Grand Master's Bushfire and Drought Appeal, the Freemasons Foundation and Masonic Charities are pleased to present funding over three years to place water tanks according to their strategic plan for fire proofing SA. This action, taken after lengthy discussion with the CFS, will be seen as the application of lessons learned from the past, application to the present and preparation for the future", Dr Jensen said.

## Long Hai Day restricted but still significant impact to those who attended

Long Hai Day on Sunday February 28 saw a group of South Australian members gather on the Pathway of Honour for a short service to honour our fallen. The service was subdued in comparison to previous years due to the Covid restrictions, but was none-the-less of significant impact to those who attended.

After the service we adjourned to the northern side of the Torrens Parade round for a picnic style lunch. This was the first time in 12 months we had actually been able to get together and enjoy the company of our fellow 8 Battalion members and their partners.

Judging by the conversations - and the time most spent there - a good time was had by all.

ANZAC Day 2021, at this stage all be it in a changed format, will go ahead on Sunday 25 April 2021. For those of you who wish to attend the march in Adelaide, I will circulate information as soon as I have it. I am sure it will be well publicised.

After the March, I have booked us into the Goodwood Hotel, 'the Goody' ,75 Goodwood Rd, Goodwood, at 1230 hours for lunch.

The Covid restrictions have changed the way we do things considerably. Let's hope we can get back to some form of normality soon. I miss the times we can get together and share a meal and good company.



From left: Des Milde, Graham Harris, Ted Forward, Adrian Coles, Fred Manno, Dennis Broadbent, Paul Stanton, Gavin Power, John Kelly, Alan Handley and Toby Tylor.

Stay healthy. Also remember we have a reunion planned for 2023 ANZAC Day in Melbourne.

Please start your planning early to ensure you can make it to Melbourne and participate in those functions you would like to.

Ted Forward 8235 1625 - 0421 349 990  
adrienne.ted.forward@gmail.com



## Graduated together in 1948 and still best of friends after 73 years



General Sir Phillip Bennett (left) and Colonel Peter Scott met in Canberra on 1 December 2020 to commemorate, with two other class mates, the 72nd Anniversary of their graduation from the Royal Military College in December 1948.

They graduated into Infantry, served together in 3RAR in Japan and, not at the same time, in Korea.

Sir Phillip was the Mortar Platoon 2ic during the Battle of Kapyong. He was wounded and Mentioned in Dispatches.

Scott served in 3RAR in Korea and was the Intelligence Officer during the Battle of Maryang San and was Mentioned in Dispatches.

Their next endeavour was to be Best Man at each others wedding in 1953 and 1954.

Subsequently they both became commanding officers in Vietnam - Sir Phillip with 1RAR in 1968 and Scott 3RAR in 1971.

Their experiences then diverged considerably. Sir Phillip was subsequently promoted to Lt Gen and appointed CGS and then promoted to General to become CDF accumulating the following decorations along the way - AC, KBE and DSO - and subsequent to retirement as Governor of Tasmania.

Sir Phillip was the last military officer to be Knighted.

Scott did not progress beyond Colonel with a DSO from Vietnam but they are still very good friends and respect each other.

## 3 RAR Covid update

Dear Members.

We are running into many brick walls with these Covid-19 restrictions and not know the outcome. One positive will be the vaccinations and who have and will receive them.

- Matters of concern coming up are the proposed Annual General Meeting at 1100 hours on Friday 19th March 2021 and the election of officers followed by lunch. RSVPs will be a requirement due to Covid-19 restrictions and space allocation.
- Korean War and Kapyong Day Service. 1100hours 24th April 2021, 13 Beatty Street, Linden Park.
- ANZAC Day March and the post march gathering at the Lord Melbourne Hotel, possible restrictions. Wait and see.

The Constitution "Ratification" and possible changes, I am happy with the outstanding effort Ken Duthie has put into this.

I believe that all Positions on the committee need to be looked at and anyone wishing to put their hands up need to be committed to the task for a minimum of two years. We now need to work a little differently from the past that worked well, we are now the National Body for 3 RAR "Old Faithful".

We need to attract some of the younger members of the association to the committee, those that are following us Older Veterans of the Korean and Vietnam era which has been a long and distinct period of time for many of us.

We need to plan for the future of the Association which is one of the finest and strongest across Australia, with representatives in all States and Territories, we need to be supportive of our reps.

Final matter for consideration is our Annual fees, with the increasing rise in administration costs i.e. mail, printing, stationary etc. I feel we need to take it to the members to increase our annual fees to better address any shortfalls that may arise into the future.

President Jeffrey Barrett JP.  
3 RAR "OLD FAITHFUL"

21 February 2021

0451 265 269

gadgetbarrett@gmail.com

## Chair returned from 'sandpit' of Iraq to seashore at Sellicks Beach



Post ANZAC Day some years ago this chair absconded through the support of some 7RAR Officers and was lured to what was supposed to be the better "sandpit" of Iraq.

Presented back to me at an RAR function by outgoing CO Lt Col Paul Graham, you will be pleased to know this chair, with one operational tour under its belt, has transitioned to a far more peaceful bit of sand where it is enjoying the tempo and views.

A great prank and lots of laughs after being told where my chair had absented itself to, courtesy of "The Piggys", 7RAR.

- Michael von Berg

# Army to massively restructure over next 8 years

From David Morris, President  
4RAR/4RAR/NZ(ANZAC)  
Association NSW/ACT

The Australian Army will undergo a massive reorganisation in the next eight years which will see additional combat brigades raised, a dedicated rocket artillery and missile brigade raised, an existing brigade refocused to digital warfare and the Army Reserve structure completely reconfigured with units equipped with next generation weapons and situational awareness capabilities.



The new expanded 21st Century Order of Battle is revealed in the Land Operational Concept Document which outlines Army's plans for a 2028 Army Objective Force.

Initial analysis reveals an augmented force that retains the vast bulk of existing combat manoeuvre elements, but with a new Joint Fires Brigade to control in the incoming NASAMS 2 Ground Based Air Defence entering service next year (Project Land 19 Phase 7B), the Long Range Fires Rocket Artillery and Long Range Missile capabilities to be acquired under Project Land 8113 and the Land Based (Anti Ship/Strike) Missile System to be acquired under Project Sea 4100.

The three existing Combat Brigades will expand to four, with major re-rolling of entire Brigades and the raising of a (fifth) high readiness Total Work Force (integrated Reserve) combat brigade with substantial combat power in Western Australia to finally redress the ground combat imbalance in the western third of the nation.

Major changes include the splitting of the Palmerston NT/Edinburgh SA based 1st Brigade into two separate Brigades with substantial re-rolling of individual units.

Under the proposed 2028 Army Objective Force, 1st Brigade will remain in Darwin and re-role as an amphibious/littoral/light combat manoeuvre element with the existing 5th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (5RAR), 8th/12th Regiment Royal Australian Artillery (8/12RAA), 1st Combat Engineer Regiment (1CER), 1st Combat Signals Regiment (1CSR) and 1st Combat Service Support Battalion (CSSB), but be augmented with a re-raised 4th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Amphibious (4RAR) in Pre Landing Force configuration.

The Army's 10th Force Support Battalion will re-equip with new Littoral Manoeuvre - Light vessels to replace the in-service LCM8 and eventually field the Littoral Manoeuvre - Heavy amphibious platforms which will be concentrated at Larakayah Barracks in Darwin with a detachment operating from the unit's existing Ross Island Barracks in Townsville.

1st Brigade's Edinburgh Defence Precinct based 7th Battalion Mechanised Royal Australian Regiment (7RAR(Mech)) and 1st Armoured Cavalry Regiment

(1AR - Armoured Cavalry Regiment) will form the foundation of a fourth combat brigade designated the 9th Brigade, re-rolled as a heavy armoured combat manoeuvre element.

Augmenting 7RAR and 1AR at 9th Brigade will be 9th Regiment Royal Australian Artillery (RAA), the former warehouse for the Army Reserve's 81mm mortar equipped Light Battery units which will become regular and re-equip with the next generation 155/52L AS9 Self Propelled Howitzer and its supporting AS10 Armoured Ammunition Resupply Vehicle and 9th Field Squadron Royal Australian Engineers who will be equipped with the next generation Heavy Armoured Capability Systems (assault support).

The current Army Reserve 9th Combat Service Support Battalion (9CSSB) logistics unit and 144th Signals Squadron will be augmented with significant full time personnel to support the 9 Brigade Operations.

Both the Laverack Barracks Townsville based 3rd Brigade and the Gallipoli Barracks Brisbane based 7th Brigade will retain their current order of battle, but re-equip with new weapons, situational awareness and sensor systems as they enter service.

The Western Australia-based 13th Brigade will be transformed almost completely with a single infantry unit, a Royal Australian Engineers Construction Squadron, an ISR element equipped with Hawkei Protected Mobility Vehicle - Light and a 155mm Artillery Battery equipped with M-777A2 Lightweight Towed Artillery and support units.

Other major changes in the proposed 2028 Army Objective Force are the complete reorganisation of the existing regular 6th Combat Support Brigade which will be re-rolled as a digital warfare brigade focused on Information Warfare, Signals Intelligence, multi spectrum Intelligence and an entire Regiment of the cryptically designated '9358'.

The 6th Combat Support Regiment will see its existing 16 Air Land Regiment (Ground Based Air Defence) transfer to the re-designated 8th (Joint Fires) Brigade and the 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment Royal Australian Artillery (RAA) will be transferred to the 16th Aviation Brigade. The Tasmania based 12th/40th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment will be re-rolled as a Regional Force Surveillance Unit specialising in lower latitude operations.

Special Operations Command will group its units within a new configuration designated Special Operations Brigade with the same structure (minus 2 Squadron Special Air Service Regiment) with an additional Army Reserve Commando Company being raised in South East Queensland within the 1st Commando Regiment structure.

The 2nd Battalion (Amphibious) Royal Australian Regiment will retain its current role as a Pre Landing Force, but may be returned to 3rd Brigade for administration purposes. More to follow as we get a clearer picture of the proposals under the 2028 Army Objective Force.

## New requiem concert feature for Overlord commemoration

The premiere of the *Vietnam Requiem* is the next creation in the Australian War Memorial's (AWM) project to create a free national commemorative repertoire, remembering the conflicts in which Australia has been involved.

Created and directed by Chris Latham, Artist-in-Residence at the AWM, the premiere of the *Vietnam Requiem* will be the next creation in the Australian War Memorial's (AWM) project to create a free national commemorative repertoire, remembering the conflicts in which Australia has been involved.

The Requiem will be deeply moving as it retells our stories from both abroad and at home on the 50th anniversary of our withdrawal.

It is being designed to help heal the great wound created by this war in response to extensive veteran and community consultation, deep listening and research.

It will honour veterans' service and their families, and the price paid by all who were touched by this war, including South Vietnamese Veterans and Boat People. We believe it will honour their sacrifices.

The Requiem will tell the stories, through music and projected imagery of Australian and New Zealand personnel on the battlefield; the affects of war on the civilian and military medical staff and entertainers who toured; the protest movement; journalists and photojournalists, and the South Vietnamese refugees who fled to freedom and endured a perilous journey to re-settle and become integrated into our culture.

The concert will have two distinct halves. The first half is a fusion of iconic pop songs from the era performed by Little Pattie, John Schumann, Normie Rowe and others under the direction of Australia's most versatile and experienced jazz musician Bill Risby.

The second half will be the *Vietnam Requiem*, commissioned by the AWM through the generous donation of Metal Manufacturers Ltd and created by Australia's leading composers Elena Kats-Chernin, Ross Edwards,



*William Barton on didgeridoo will be among the artists presenting the Vietnam Requiem in Canberra as part of the Overlord commemoration in June 7.*

Graeme Koehne, Andrew Schultz and others.

It will feature William Barton on didgeridoo, members of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra and the **Band of the Royal Military College Duntroon** (below) and choirs.

The concert is made possible through our partnership with the AWM, Metal Manufacturers Ltd, Department of Veterans Affairs, Australia Council for the Arts, Australian National University School of Music, National Archives of Australia, Vietnamese Community in Australia, Canberra Symphony Orchestra, Australian Cultural Fund, Vietnam and Vietnamese Veteran organisations.

It brings together Australia's leading composers and performing artists to create a memorable theatrical concert.

The Requiem will be deeply moving as it retells our stories from both abroad and at home on the 50th anniversary of our withdrawal. The concert will be held Llewellyn Hall, AMU Music School, on Sunday June 5 (Saturday is sold out). Bookings: <http://thefloweresofwar.org/calendar/2021/6/6vietnam-requiem>.



**Royal Australian Regiment Association Committee 2020-2021**

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 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 0451 265 269

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 mummery&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

BAR ROSTER APRIL 2021 - August 2021				
April '21	Fri	2nd	GOOD FRIDAY CLOSED	
	Fri	9th	Spike	
	Fri	16th	Kara	
	Fri	23rd	Adrian	
KAPYONG DAY	Sat	24th	Wheels	3RAR Reunion
ANZAC DAY	Sun	25th	CLOSED	Dawn Service 6.15am
	Fri	30th	Spike	
May '21	Fri	7th	Jeff	
	Fri	14th	Kara	
	Fri	21st	Adrian	
	Fri	28th	Wheels	
June '21	Fri	4th	Spike	
	Fri	11th	Jeff	
	Fri	18th	Kara	
	Fri	25th	Adrian	
July '21	Fri	2nd	Wheels	
	Fri	9th	Spike	
	Fri	16th	Jeff	
	Fri	23rd	Kara	
	Fri	30th	Adrian	
August '21	Fri	6th	Wheels	
	Fri	13th	Spike	
Long Tan Day	Wed	18th	Jeff	Vietnam Veterans Day
	Fri	20th	Kara	
	Fri	27th	Adrian	

Light up the dawn street service ANZAC DAY 6.15am  
 RARA HQ 13 Beatty St Linden Park.



Many have been the hours Bruce and Penelope Forster have spent in this little office at the clubrooms since being involved with the RARA since 2008. It has been their privilege to assist with the production of *Infantryman* over those years and to associate with members and non-members who gave many years service from which all Australians and others have benefited  
 Photo: Maria - with thanks

**Headquarters and Clubroom**  
 13 Beatty Street, Linden Park, SA 5065  
 Phone: 0408 197 739  
 Website: www.rarasa.org.au  
 Email: rar01@internode.on.net



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