

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was an honour to be elected as president of the National Executive at the recent AGM in Canberra. Our Association is one of the strongest in the RAR community and our State branches are the envy of other associations. I hope that my election will be the first of a series of appointments of those of us from the second generation of 7 RAR into the National Executive and into the State Branches. Our Executive Officer, Secretary Webmaster and Treasurer are all dedicated men who are very capable and willing to march-on, but it is time for the second generation to start a transition into key appointments over the coming years.

A strategic plan for the Association has been drafted and by the time this edition of Seven News arrives I hope it will be on the website, or at least close to being released. Like any plan it is unlikely to survive first contact, but it identifies opportunities we think are worth pursuing, particularly in relation to increasing membership among the second generation as well as some concepts for generating a modest income stream via sales of 7 RAR themed merchandise. It also contains some values and goals for the Association going forward. For the original membership this sort of document is probably not necessary, and terms like 'values' and 'goals' can often sound a little bit PC, but in the current ex-service environment which has become cluttered with hundreds of single issue organisations claiming to represent our interests, I believe it is important for us to state what we stand for, and what we don't.

We have started to write a historical record of the Battalion since re-raising in late 2006. This certainly won't be a rollicking yarn worth publishing as a book, but the Battalion has now been back on the order of battle for 12 years, with three Battalion led operational tours and numerous company level and below operational deployments which need to be formally recorded in an unclassified document. It will take some time to compile this, and again it is my intention to have this on the website and be a document that is as factual as possible and be added to over time.

In addition to the history, we will be asking for short stories or biographies to be written for key figures in the Battalion. Our Battalion is blessed to have many larger than life characters who served faithfully, often in a very colourful manner, and also have led very fulfilling lives post service. These stories are very import for our younger soldiers to read and be inspired by. So if the Association Executive reach out and ask you to write up your story, please put aside any reservations you may have in the knowledge that your story is important. Please don't underestimate how inspiring your story can be for a young digger today.

Lastly, I look forward to engaging with the State branches over the next few months and getting your thoughts on increasing membership from the current generation of 7 RAR soldiers. There may be some quick wins we can achieve but the big task of demonstrating the value of membership to our young soldiers is one we need to work on together.

Mick Garraway.

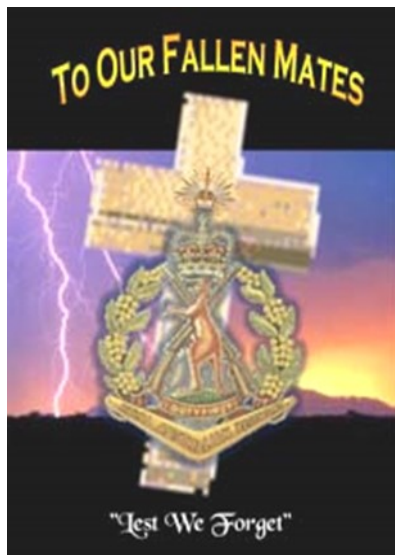
CONTENTES PAGE - SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER CALENDAR

Page/s

1. President's Report.
2. Contents this edition/Sep-Dec Calendar.
3. Vale.
4. From the Editor.
- 5/6. Letter from Madeline Strachan with Flag -Sister Mick Ayres 1st tour.
6. Searching for information on Kevin Joselin1st tour.
7. In search of a member x 3.
- 8/17. Minutes of 2018 AGM.
- 17/22. The Best from The West.
- 23/27. From the WEBSITE.
- 28/29. Pearls From Victoria.
29. The Horseshoe 1970.
30. Last Post ceremony at AWM for LT Robin Charles Pothof.
31. Remembering our mates The Tunnel Rats.
32. A Holden in Baria and the Boys relaxing on the Beach at NDP Brigid.

SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER CALENDAR

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 01 Sep 2018 | 53rd Birthday 7RAR. |
| 11 Nov 2018 | Remembrance Day all States. |
| 23 Nov 2018 | 70th Anniversary RAR Canberra. |
| 26 Nov 2018 | Cut-Off date for articles for 3/2018 Seven News. |
| 03 Dec 2018 | Post/Email 3/2018 Seven News |



**Rest ye oh Warrior, You will battle no more,
No longer to live the horrors of war,
Your duty was done with honor and pride,
Farewell oh brother, until we march by your side.**

**It is with deep and sincere sympathy that I report the death of former
friends and comrades in arms.**

**3789109 Douglas Richard Curran, A3 1st tour, passed away
Saturday 5 May 2018.**

**532154 Keith Patrick Teefey, Chaplain, 2nd tour, passed away Friday
11 May 2018.**

**218327 John Richard (Pappy) Kennedy, PNRS 2nd tour, passed away
Sunday 13 May 2018.**

**38532 Phillip William Lloyd, B5 1st tour, passed away Sunday 3
June 2018.**

**311383 Thomas Henry (Paddy) Craig, both tours, passed away
Tuesday 3 July 2018.**

**311340 Edward Wright (Jock) Isaac, C8 1st tour, passed away
Tuesday 3 July 2018.**

**3788867 Maxwell Charles Storey, INT/BHQ 1st tour, passed away
Wednesday 18 July 2018.**

**61745 Barry Vivian (Bomba) De Bomford, TPT, PNRS both tours,
passed away Thursday 19 July 2018.**



From the EDITOR'S DESK

It has been announced by Defence that female recruits are being awarded the Australian Defence Medal in half the time it takes their male counterparts to qualify. And gap year students who join up for a 12 months "adventure" have that service taken into account, also cutting the time it takes them to qualify for a medal.

All members please note, if you renew your membership using the internet to transfer your fees to the Association bank account can you please send me a copy of the membership renewal form so I can keep your personal details up to date. To all members who do their renewal by mail please include a copy of the renewal form with the cheque or money order, please no notes on their own telling me this is for my renewal, this helps me keep my records up to date.

Members please take note of our NEW President and understand the second generation of the Battalion is beginning to take active positions within the Association and as you can see the views by that generation has a great attitude to maintain the involvement of our younger members of 7RAR and lets all get behind welcoming this NEW generation into our ranks and continue the outstanding involvement of the PIGS in promoting and supporting those who serve with this fine Battalion.

As our first generation move into their twilight years please keep in contact with your mates and their families so we keep the traditions that were set from the beginning and then maintained up to this present time and please keep me informed as to the welfare of all our old and young veterans. We can do this by sending me even the smallest articles to include in this publication to keep all of us informed as to the welfare of our MATES and their FAMILIES, "OINK OINK" Please note these two important dates, Friday 23 November, 70th anniversary raising of the Royal Australian Regiment, to be held at the AWM in Canberra. Also the Last Post Ceremony in Honor of LT Robin Christiaan Pothof also at the AWM.

TONY XO/ED

As you all would have seen in the April Edition of SEVEN NEWS Don Cruden had a 7RAR Flag made for people to fly as they saw fit. Madeline Strachan, (Mick Ayres) Sister was one of the very interested in getting one of the flags to add to her memorabilia of her late brother's collection. Mick lost his life in Vietnam 6 February 1968. Madelaine's letter to Don below and A photo of Madeline proudly holding the Flag on the next page.

DEAR DON

RECEIVED THE NEW 7 RAR FLAG ON MONDAY
21 MAY, 2018. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR WHAT
YOU DID. YOUR GLENRE IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

THE FLAG WILL GO INTO 'MICK' AYRES BOX WITH
MY BROTHER'S OTHER ITEMS. OF VIETNAM.

HAVE ENCLOSED A PHOTO - TAKEN ON WEDNESDAY,
23 MAY, 2018 - HOPE IT IS OKAY.

MY BROTHER, 'MICK' AYRES WOULD HAVE BEEN PROUD
OF THE NEW FLAG.

I Am So GRATEFUL.

BEST REGARDS

MADELINE (AYRES) STRACHAN.

25TH MAY, 2018.

Long Pls Publish
And note 57th Aust Branch
MADE THE 7RAR DONATION TO

Mick Ayres
Sister
2 Don.

Publish AS
IS AND ADD
A Thank you
Comment on
behalf of
7RAR NATION
PLS.



Hi 7RAR!!!

**My father served with 7 RAR in Vietnam 1967-1968 K.R. Joselin
(Kevin)**

I am desperate for any information on him or photos.

Thanks and respect to you all.

Cheers

IN SEARCH OF A MEMBER

215460 WILLIAM THOMAS O'BRIEN AACC ADMIN COY 2ND TOUR.

EMAIL TO MIKE O'BRIEN:

Hi mike my name is Lisa O'Brien-Beard I live in NZ but was born in Sydney. I am hoping you could help me please. I'm trying to find my father whom I believe was in the 7th battalion. The only information I have is a card I found amongst my late mothers belongings and a few letters written from him. I'm not sure if he would still be alive but would like to be able to gather some information on him or his family. I'm not to sure what happened between him and my mother as she never spoke to us about him, but now my brother and I are Keen to learn more about the other side of our family and were we fit in . I would appreciate any information or help to try locate him.

I have attached what I have. I would like to come to Sydney to do research but work commitments just don't allow the time right now, so I'm trying to do as much as possible from here.

Thank you for texting me back . If you would like more information you can txt and I can ring you or email. Thanks again

**L.K. Beard, 11 Newall Street, Kawerau 3127
New Zealand**

From: Barry Francis <bm.francis@hotmail.com>
Subject: Trying to locate friend

Message Body:

Hi, re my previous email in search of contact details for Alan Emery, another member who went from Us (A Coy 6 RAR) was 2789523, Glenn Raymond Griffiths, joined 7RAR on 15/05/1970 and completed the tour in March 1971. Again, could you send me details or ask him to contact me. Email be.francis@hotmail.com, Ph 0741234039 or mobile 0466013365. Thanks again. This mail is sent via contact form on Porky Seven <http://7rar.asn.au/wp>

IN SEARCH OF

Hi all!, I am looking for the current address for Alan Crofts, B Coy 1st tour, his 1/2018 Seven News was RTS, his address I have on database is in Tweed Heads, NSW, I rang his home number but was advised it was not connected, if anyone knows his current contact details please advise me on, porky_seven@bigpond.com or Mobile 0418 624 211.

TONY XO/ED

MINUTES 7RAR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD

SUNDAY 24 JUNE 2018

AT LEGACY HOUSE CANBERRA

The President declared the meeting open at 11.05 am with 13 members present and the XO advised the meeting that he held 16 proxy votes. The following apologies were tendered: Gen Ron Grey and Bob Murdoch. The XO presented a Synopsis of the minutes of the 2017 minutes. The President said that any discussions dealing with this report would be Covered in the general business.

Annual Reports:

The President raised the point of reunions looking at the increasing age of most of the membership and was impressed with the turn up for the Reunion Cruise. He also covered the loss of our members recently with recognition of Father Keith Teehey.

The Secretary/Webmaster:

I am happy to keep running the website for the immediate future but it's unwise to have an almost 72 yr old running the system in the long term. The Association needs to identify an apprentice so I can start to handover lest they be forced one day to pick up the pieces should when I fall off the perch.

I'm not sure if we need another Facebook page but should look to tightening up the one we have to ensure it meets our needs. There are 2349 members as of 27Mar18 and whereas most of them seem to be legit there are obvious interlopers.

I think Kevin Brown and myself (or the Webmaster should I be usurped) should be the only Admins to be authorised to add members to ensure we don't get strangers in the mix. I have spoken to Kevin Brown at length today (03May18) and we have formulated a series of actions to get control of the Facebook Page. Face Book itself often changes rules and then resets settings without telling the admins.

We think this is why we have a number of people who, on the face of it, don't have a 7RAR connection. Both of us will work on culling the membership over the next few weeks of people with no obvious connection and the settings have been reset to meet our requirements.

I see the website as a depository or data and history and the Facebook page as a day to day diary.

Merchandise

Yes, we are poorly served and have dropped the ball on merchandise. In the past our merchandise has come from reunions however as future large-scale reunions are looking doubtful we do need to establish a permanent line of merchandise. The 7 RAR Regt Trust Fund does meet some of that need but not all.

There is still a lot of 1st Gen members who want merchandise that features Porky Pig, Vietnam and 7RAR which would conflict with the RTF. Thus, for the immediate future, I recommend we look at investing some money on setting up Vietnam centric merchandise to see us through. I think it could be marketed through the website and PayPal, and, in the case of 7RAR non-theatre specific merchandise or Afghan, Iraq and Timor Leste specific stuff, through the RTF and the website as well. Although not currently obvious, the website is set up for a Shopping Cart system linked through PayPal so the software exists.

Car and caravan "I'm a Porky Seven Vietnam Afghanistan Iraq Timor Leste Veteran" stickers, mugs, caps, ties, stubby coolers are regular sellers. Books written by members (if still in print) could be included in sales.

I am regularly asked for plaques and polo shirts with 7RAR logos but have to admit we don't have any.

Giving of One's Time

Giving of one's time, raising money for philanthropic causes and charities, and being part of a formed organisation with a sense civic duty and 'service above self are honourable traits of I see the website as a depository or data and history and the Facebook page as a day to day diary.

Merchandise

Yes, we are poorly served and have dropped the ball on merchandise. In the past our merchandise has come from reunions however as future large-scale reunions are looking doubtful we do need to establish a permanent line of merchandise. The 7 RAR Regt Trust Fund does meet some of that need but not all.

There is still a lot of 1st Gen members who want merchandise that features Porky Pig, Vietnam and 7RAR which would conflict with the RTF. Thus, for the immediate future, I recommend we look at investing some money on setting up Vietnam centric merchandise to see us though. I think it could be marketed through the website and PayPal, and, in the case of 7RAR non-theatre specific merchandise or Afghan, Iraq and Timor Leste specific stuff, through the RTF and the website as well. Although not currently obvious, the website is set up for a Shopping Cart system linked through PayPal so the software exists.

Car and caravan "I'm a Porky Seven Vietnam Afghanistan Iraq Timor Leste Veteran" stickers, mugs, caps, ties, stubby coolers are regular sellers. Books written by members (if still in print) could be included in sales.

I am regularly asked for plaques and polo shirts with 7RAR logos but have to admit we don't have any.

Giving of One's Time

Giving of one's time, raising money for philanthropic causes and charities, and being part of a formed organisation with a sense civic duty and 'service above self are honourable traits of Kev Gillett Webmaster

The Treasurer: Listed below is the Financial summary for the financial year 2017-2018.

7TH BATTALION ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC. Balance Sheet at 28th February 2018

Current Assets	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	66,161	67,298
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>66,161</u>	<u>67,298</u>
Current Liabilities		
Members Prepaid fees	9,929	10,657
Non Current Liabilities		
Members Prepaid fees	35,205	37,386
<u>Total Liabilities</u>	<u>45,134</u>	<u>48,444</u>
<u>Net Assets</u>	<u>21,027</u>	<u>18,854</u>
Equity		
Members' Funds	21,027	18,854
<u>Total Equity</u>	<u>21,027</u>	<u>18,854</u>

7TH BATTALION ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC.**Profit and Loss Statement****For the Year Ended 28th February 2018**

Income	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Members Receipts	11,953	12,632
Interest Received	1,589	1,625
Other Revenue	<u>845</u>	<u>2,968</u>
	14,388	17,225
Awards Infantry Centre	241	373
Computer & Office Expenses	2,704	2,732
Donations	500	3,532
General Expenses	1,568	1,412
Postage	1,153	1,032
Printing & Stationery	4,664	3,966
Telephone	1,250	5,394
Travelling Expenses	135	125
	12,215	18,566
Surplus/(Loss) for Year	<u>2,173</u>	<u>(1,339)</u>

The Executive Officer:

The current membership of the Association stands at 1006, (about 100 serving members from 7RAR NOT all are financial to this year), there are still other members unfinancial only since 2016-17. Members can check their financial status by checking the first set of figures at the top left corner of their address label or if receiving via email click on tab at the top of the email.

We are now into 24 months sending Seven News using the Electronic System, this allowed 750 odd copies to be electronically sent to members and only 254 via the post which meant the total cost for the April Seven New was \$2,167.18.

Please remember that the newsletter is only as good as the articles I receive from the members. Also as indicated in the newsletter we are looking for assistants to the three positions that are mostly exposed to the membership, i.e. Executive Officer/Editor, Treasurer and the Secretary Webmaster.

That's all I have for this and I look forward to serving you for as long as I am able.

Matters arising from the reports. These will be discussed during general business.

Committee of Management Elections. The President handed over the chair to the XO to conduct the election. There was one nomination for the position of President:

It was moved Rod Lyons seconded by Bob Murdoch that Mick Garraway be nominated as the next President of the 7RAR Association Committee of Management. CARRIED. All other positions on the Committee of Management were re-appointed.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2018-2019

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

7th BATTALION THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT INC (QLD) 2015-2016

PATRONS

MAJOR GENERAL R.A. GREY, AO, DSO (Retd),
LIEUTENANT COLONEL PAUL GRAHAM COMMANDING OFFICER 7RAR

PRESIDENT

COLONEL MICK GARRAWAY, AM
michael.garraway@defence.gov.au

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT/HISTORIAN

MAJOR GENERAL MIKE O'BRIEN, CSC, PO BOX 1085, CARLTON,
VIC 3053, Ph (m) 0419 263 625,
Email: MikeOBrien@bigpond.com

VICE PRESIDENT

BRIGADIER SHANE GABRIEL, DSC,
Email: shane.gabriel@defence.gov.au

SECRETARY/WEBMASTER

MR KEVIN GILLET, 20 TUPIA STREET, TAIGUM, QLD, 4018
Ph(h) (07) 3865 4411, (m) 0429 054 805,
Email: kev@kevgillett.net
Website: www.7rar.asn.au

TREASURER

MR BERNIE COX PO BOX 6167, NORTH RYDE, NSW 2113
Ph(h) (02) 9809 2495, (m) 0425 204 831,
Email: berniecox@bigpond.com

EXECUTIVE OFFICER/EDITOR

MR TONY KEECH, OAM, PO Box 8143, WERRINGTON COUNTY,
NSW 2747
Ph (h) (02) 4721 4349, (m) 0418 624 211,
Email: porkyseven@bigpond.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MR ROBERT MURDOCH

33 LOCHLOMOND DRIVE, BANORA POINT, NSW 2486

Ph (02) 5524 5269 (m) 0408 679 653

Email: murdoch.bob@yahoo.com.au

MR BRICE STOKES

"CULLINGRAL" MERRIWA, NSW 2329

Ph (02) 6548 3236

MR JOHN WILLIAM LAWSON

51 LINACRE ROAD, HAMPTON, VIC 3188

Ph (03) 9598 4300 (m) 0412 550 890

lawsonj@hamiltonlawson.com.au

AUDITOR

**MR BERNARD WORSLEY, ADDRSONS ACCOUNTING SERVICES, UNIT 2, BETTY CUTHBERT AVE-
NUE, ERMINGTON, NSW 2115**

Ph (w) (02) 9898 1144

HONORARY LEGAL OFFICER

LTCOL LACHLAN MEAD

lachlan.mead@dfence.gov.au

The new President addressed the meeting.

President elect welcomed LTCOL Adam Gower, the CO 7 RAR designate.

President elect thanked the immediate past president and the committee. Stated that he hoped his appointment would be the start of a transition with members of the second generation of 7 RAR assuming executive appointments in the coming years. In regard to his broad approach, the president elect would seek to honour the style and nature of membership of the first generation of the Association and modernise association to ensure that the needs of second generation soldiers are also achieved.

President elect stated that he drafted a strategic plan for the association and distributed it among the executive group for review. It is a guide for how the Association can modernise, with various concepts for how the Association can harness social media, conduct reunions, raise funds, etc, and concepts for how the Association can increase membership.

Further work will be done by the president elect on developing an Association noticeboard on facebook. The outcome would probably be a 'page' which can feed relevant information to the Association members and be complimentary to the website. The current group can continue to run as it is a useful means of keeping people in contact, however, it is increasingly difficult to moderate and for the most part contains humorous posts of no particular relevance to the Association membership.

David McCammon agreed to do further research on a merchandising arrangement with a military clothing supplier. There are a number of reputable clothing suppliers who can supply 7 RAR themed merchandise via a website from which the Association can be paid a percentage. This is seen to be a passive way to generate income without needing to establish a shop of our own and be involved in postage and handling. This has the added advantage of having a relatively broad range of contemporary stock. Several other regimental associations have similar arrangements. We expect to be able to advise the executive of the options by mid September.

President elect raised the issue of a contemporary historical record of the battalion post 2006 to the present. There is a need to record the how the Battalion was re-raised, the major deployments, relocation to SA and growth of the Battalion, significant ceremonial events, etc. President elect would work with the current and former COs and RSMs to produce this. Similarly, nominal rolls from major deployments need to be collated noting that security classifications and the high number of individual and small team deployments will make this task difficult, this task will be ongoing.

Mike O'Brien will discuss with Don Cruden the support financial support for our State members.

The business of the 7RAR Museum and donations from the members will be discussed with the CO and a notice will be placed in our next Seven News dealing with this subject.

There were two nominations for granting of Life Membership to the Association, these were Victorian Member Bill Anderson and the National Treasurer Bernie Cox. The meeting voted unamissly for both members be added to our Life Members list.

Webmasters Report

I am happy to keep running the website for the immediate future but it's unwise to have an almost 72 yr old running the system in the long term. The Association needs to identify an apprentice so I can start to handover lest they be forced one day to pick up the pieces should when I fall off the perch.

I'm not sure if we need another Facebook page but should look to tightening up the one we have to ensure it meets our needs. There are 2349 members as of 27Mar18 and whereas most of them seem to be legit there are obvious interlopers. I think Kevin Brown and myself (or the Webmaster should I be usurped) should be the only Admins to be authorised to add members to ensure we don't get strangers in the mix. I have spoken to Kevin Brown at length today (03May18) and we have formulated a series of actions to get control of the Facebook Page. Face Book itself often changes rules and then resets settings without telling the admins. We think this is why we have a number of people who, on the face of it, don't have a 7RAR connection. Both of us will work on culling the membership over the next few weeks of people with no obvious connection and the settings have been reset to meet our requirements.

I see the website as a depository of data and history and the Facebook page as a day to day diary.

Merchandise

Yes, we are poorly served and have dropped the ball on merchandise. In the past our merchandise has come from reunions however as future large-scale reunions are looking doubtful we do need to establish a permanent line of merchandise. The 7 RAR Regt Trust Fund does meet some of that need but not all.

There is still a lot of 1st Gen members who want merchandise that features Porky Pig, Vietnam and 7RAR which would conflict with the RTF. Thus, for the immediate future, I recommend we look at investing some money on setting up Vietnam centric merchandise to see us through. I think it could be marketed through the website and PayPal, and, in the case of 7RAR non-theatre specific merchandise or Afghan, Iraq and Timor Leste specific stuff, through the RTF and the website as well. Although not currently obvious, the website is set up for a Shopping Cart system linked through PayPal so the software exists.

Car (and caravan) "I'm a Porky Seven Vietnam/Afghanistan/Iraq/Timor Leste Veteran" stickers, mugs, caps, ties, stubby coolers are regular sellers. Books written by members (if still in print) could be included in sales.

I am regularly asked for plaques and polo shirts with 7RAR logos but have to admit we don't have any.

Giving of One's Time

Giving of one's time, raising money for philanthropic causes and charities, and being part of a formed organisation with a sense of civic duty and 'service above self' are honourable traits of the Baby Boomer generation. Sadly, this is not a characteristic of contemporary Australian society.

This *One's Time* was not given until I reached my forties and I would hopefully think this situation will prevail into the next generation. I often make the point that becoming a member of an Association or contributing to society happens only when we reach that time in our life when we have time to think beyond self, career, wife or kids - ie, in our forties. Careers settled (or not going anywhere), kids more independent, mortgage under control - sit back and think.....

The other factor in people joining Associations is what I would call the "Husband Factor". Someone like Jim Husband is needed as a kick starter to establishing a successful association. Jim harassed, harangued, nagged, needled, dragged us out of our hidey holes and abused us until we joined. As we enter another generation maybe we need some 2nd Gen tribal elder to be a Jim Husband.

Kev Gillett Webmaster

David Mc Cammon passed on the following information dealing with members of 7RAR:

Awards

Former RSM WO1 Matt Bold awarded an OAM in the Queen's Birthday list;

Warrant Officer Class One Matthew Francis BOLD, Qld

For meritorious service as the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 9th Battalion, the Royal Queensland Regiment and the 7th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment.

Warrant Officer Bold's dedication to his roles as Company Sergeant Major in the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, and the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 9th Battalion, the Royal Queensland Regiment and the 7th Battalion, has been fundamental in improving the welfare, skills and operational effectiveness of soldiers who served under him.

Former Company Commander MAJ Chris Gilmore awarded a Commendation for Distinguished service on the same list;

Major Christopher Daniel GILMORE, USA

For distinguished performance of duties in warlike operations as Officer Commanding Training Team One of Task Group Taji Three in Iraq on Operation OKRA from May to December 2016.

Major Gilmore demonstrated distinguished service in his leadership of his team which trained Iraqi forces to secure Al-Qayyarah Air Base and subsequently liberated Mosul. His team performed to an exceptional standard and his mission focus, dedication and leadership delivered superior results in building partner capacity for the defeat of Da'esh in Iraq.

Significant Postings

LTCOL Adam Gower will be CO 7RAR from JAN 19

BRIG Shane Gabriel, DSC will serve as the US Army Attaché for a third year in 2019

LTCOL Tim Stone a Logistics officer who served in the Battalion including Afghanistan will be CO of the Army School of Ordinance from JAN 19

LTCOL Mick Kearns, CSM a CAPT and then Coy Commander in 7RAR is currently CO 3RAR

LTCOL Justin Bywater a CAPT and then Coy Commander in 7RAR is currently CO 6RAR

WO1 Dave Allen, OAM is now the RSM of Forces Command

WO1 Mick Landy, OAM is currently the RSM of 1st Brigade

WO1 Rob Munro a former CSM within 7RAR 2008-2010 will be RSM 5RAR from JAN 19

WO2 Matt Lines, MG a former PL SGT within 7RAR 2008-2010 will be RSM 9RQR from JAN 19

WO2 PJ Hallam a former CSM within 7RAR 2014-2016 will be RSM 10/40 RTR from JAN 19

WO2 Mick Keefe a former CSM within 7RAR 2014-2016 will be RSM 4/3RNSWR from JAN 19

Significant events

MAJ Levon Lambert a former PL COMD, ADJT, OPSO and Coy Commander in 7RAR who just graduated from USMC Staff College. In attendance is his former CO, BRIG Shane Gabriel, DSC who attended in his capacity as the Army Attaché to the US.

Mike O'Brien read the Honour Roll and Recited the ODE.

The president declared the meeting closed at 12.30pm.

THE BEST FROM THE WEST

G'Day from WA.

ANZAC DAY - PERTH

It was a great Anzac Day march in Perth this year, great weather and great crowds as per usual. Our banner was carried by Peter Curley and Keith Lewis, with flags carried by John Bell's son Ben in honour of his uncle Alec Bell and Albert Jacob in honour of his uncle Paul Navarre. We had a good mix of PIGS, wives/girlfriends, children and grandchildren, great to see. This year was the first time we gathered at "The Globe" after the march and it was a wonderful family atmosphere, although we had a few thirsty invaders as we had an early 11.00am start and the local clientele had to wait until 12.00.

7RAR FLAGS

Well this is it, the last order for flags, there are only 14 left so first in best dressed. Flags are 900mm x 600mm (3ft x 2ft) and costs are:

- 1 Flag \$35 including postage
- 2 Flags \$65 including postage
- 3 Flags \$100 including postage

Payment can be made direct to our Bank Account, details as follows:

BSB 066132 ACCOUNT 00913220



Please include name with bank payments and email Don with delivery address, on: dcruden1@bigpond.com

FLAG FEEDBACK

Greetings Don

Just a short message to say that my 7RAR flag and bonus fridge magnet arrived safely today. The flag will take pride of place in our Anzac Day celebrations here in our retirement village in Menda.

Thank you for your assistance. Kind Regards Peter "Jungles" Preston

Great to get a bit of positive feedback, thanks Jungles.

Xmas Function To be held at the Globe Hotel (same place as last year) around mid November. Full details to be emailed to all members mid Sept.

MEMBERSHIP

Note that membership subscriptions are soon due, so start paying now or "Dreadful Don" will be chasing you. If you are uncertain of your current membership status, look at the top left-hand corner of the address label on your last newsletter for the year that you are financial up to.

INTERSTATE VISITOR

Don had a call late June from 19958 Clifford Johnson AACC A Coy 1st tour. He was travelling with his wife and rang from Pt Hedland to find out about a Veterans Retreat out of Kununurra, fortunately using the 5RAR web site which lists all retreats throughout Australia Don was able to give him the necessary information. Perhaps we could also list such sites on our website, great for travelers etc. It was nice to hear from him and we welcome any 7RAR member travelling through Western Australia to make contact and trust that we may be able to assist them or meet and greet at some stage of their tour.

Don said he's not sure how he got or found his details but that "it is nice to feel famous if only for a phone call".

JOCK HENDERSON

Jock Henderson recently had another spell in hospital a wee bit serious but the end result being HE IS STILL LIVING.

KEN BLADEN

Don just had a chat with Ken Bladen (thought he would check up to see how he was going) Ken's battling a few aches and pains but holding up as well as can be expected like us all as we age (not so gracefully in some cases). But he is soldiering onwards.

PHOTOS FROM GORDON "DICKO" DICKSON IN EUROPE



This the Menin Gate, in Ypres Belgium



Bet you didn't expect to see a PIG in Florence.

VLACHOUS ARE NOW “GREY NOMADS”

Sandra and Peter Vlachou are enjoying two months caravanning in the state's North West. In Broome they caught up with Pam & Charlie Matheson & John & Leonie Young for dinner at the famous Divers Tavern at Cable Beach. They're surprised at how many Vets they've met from around Australia who spend months as Grey Nomads on the road. As keen Eagles fans they hope to return to Perth in time for the Derby against the Dockers on Aug 5.



NAMETAGS (Note: For BOTH Men and Women)

Our NAMETAGS are available in two sizes, the original size and the version, which is half as big again. Each small tag costs \$13, with the larger tag at \$18, both prices include delivery to anywhere in Australia. To order, contact Geoff Murray as per details below and provide the correct name to be included on the TAG and the correct postal address. To ensure prompt delivery, pop a cheque (made payable to Geoff Murray) or money order in the post when you place your order, delivery is about three weeks. Post it to:

**Geoff Murray
30 Bouvardia Way
GREENWOOD
WA 6024**

Alternatively, you can do an Electronic Funds Transfer to:

BSB 066132 Account 00913220



Approx. 6.0cm x
4.0cm



Approx. 9.0cm x 6.0cm

NEWSLETTER

Remember, the newsletter is only as good as the contents, so please contact Geoff Murray if you have anything to report, no matter how trivial. Geoff can be contacted on:

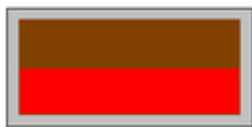
Mobile 0432253043

Email geoffandlorraine@yahoo.com.au

Cheers - Geoff Murray

From the Website

Looking Back



The Seventh Australian Infantry Battalion (AIF) (1936-1945), a Victorian unit, originated from a battalion raised as part of the Militia after the First World War. It had the title North West Murray Borderers. From the outset it had a strong link to the wartime 7th Battalion AIF and inherited its Battle Honours. Though originally a Militia unit by 1943 most of its soldiers had volunteered for the AIF and its designation was changed to include that title.

Prior to the outbreak of the war in the Pacific, the unit did guard duties in Victoria. It was then sent to assist in the defence of Darwin from Feb 1942 to Sept 1943, during the Japanese bombing raids.

By May 1944, the unit was assigned to operations in British Solomon Islands on Stirling and New Georgia Islands defending US Army Air Force installations and supporting US operations. The unit was then assigned to Papua New Guinea - undertaking mapping and surveying activities near Wau.

In April 1945 the battalion joined the fighting in 1945 in central Bougainville, successfully repelling Japanese forces until hostilities ceased in August 1945. At least 62 actions were fought over 4 months. It was in this period that the battalion sustained most of its casualties

At the end of the war the Battalion guarded 26,000 Japanese prisoners on Fauro Island, south of Bougainville until March 1946. The battalion, which by then had men from all over Australia, was disbanded in May 1946, Thirty-five of its soldiers gave their lives for their country, including one of its commanding officers.

A full history of the Battalion can be accessed on the Association website by clicking on the link in Flip Books and PDFs or, if you get this newsletter by email, then just click here:

http://7rar.asn.au/wp/docs/The_Seventh_Battalion.pdf

A Tribute to three British soldiers

By Mark Moloney



In 1961, an Englishman, a Scotsman and an Irishman enlisted in the Australian Army at Australia House London. The first was Thomas (Jordie) Wilkinson, who enlisted on 13 March 1961, then Edward Wright (Jock) Isaac on 30 March 1961 and finally Thomas Henry (Paddy) Craig on 8 September 1961. All had previous service with the British Army, Jordie in the early 1950's, Jock with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and Paddy with the Irish Guards. Jock had also seen active service in Cyprus.

Left: 311331 WILKINSON, Thomas "Jordie"

13 May 1930 - 29 September 1990

All three followed similar paths, posted to the Infantry Centre then to 3 Battalion Royal Australian Regiment and then deployed to Malaysia with the battalion. All three served in Borneo, Jock and Jordie served in B Company and Paddy in D Company. The nature of the deployments in Malaysia and Borneo were not widely discussed at the time as the operations in Borneo were classified for a number of years. However, these operations were very much company based and relied upon extensive patrolling and ambushing. Jock was a member of an ambush led by Pat Beale where they ambushed three Indonesian boats killing fifteen and Pat was awarded a Military Cross. During their posting to 3 Battalion both Jock and Paddy were promoted to Corporal.



311383 CRAIG, Thomas Henry, (Paddy)

24 Dec 1937-3 July 2018

Upon completion of their tour of Malaysia and the Battalion returning to Australia all three were posted to 7 Battalion Royal Australian Regiment in Puckapunyal. Jock was soon posted to 3 Training Battalion in March 1966 only to return to 7 Battalion Royal Australian Regiment in February 1967. All three served in 8 Platoon C Company at some stage during the first tour of Vietnam. Paddy was the platoon sergeant, Jock was a section commander and Jordie a section second in command for a short period. Jordie was the company storemen for the majority of the tour and on return to Australia was posted to 22 Battalion Royal Victorian Regiment and subsequently took his discharge. He died on 29 September 1990.

Jock Isaac upon return to Australia was promoted Sergeant. He was then posted



to the Infantry Centre as a reinforcement and was subsequently to serve with 5 Battalion Royal Australian Regiment in D Company. Upon return to Australia he took his discharge only to reenlist in August and then saw postings to the Infantry Centre, Army Apprentices School and then back to 3 Battalion Royal Australian Regiment as Company Sergeant Major C Company, then 2 Training Group and discharge in December 1985. He was promoted to a Warrant Officer Class Two in 1975. Jock died on 3 July 2018.

11340 ISAAC, Edward Wright "Jock"

13 November 137–3 July 2018

Paddy Craig returned to Vietnam with 7 Battalion Royal Australian Regiment on their second tour as C Company, Quartermaster Sergeant. Upon return to Australia postings to Cadet Battalions and Melbourne University Regiment. He was then posted to the Royal Military College, Duntroon and finally back to Cadets and Melbourne University Regiment. He was discharged on 17 January 1985. He was promoted to Warrant Officer Class Two in 1970. He died on 3 July 2018. Jordie was the quite one of the three, he went about his work in an un-intrusive manner and with little fuss. Jock and Paddy had strong, assertive personalities, ideally suited to their demanding leadership roles. This contributed in positive ways to the many successful operations and contacts during their operational tours in Malaysia, Borneo and Vietnam. These qualities would also serve them and others well during their further service.

When one considers the aforementioned birthdates, enlistment place and date followed by their very similar service journeys and careers, and finally the time and dates of death, the question springs to mind; "Is all of this either a phenomenal coincidence or perhaps the guiding hand of their guardian angel" !!

All three remained close friends throughout their service in Australia and afterwards.

May they all Rest in Peace.

Lest we Forget.

Other Matters

Graves of our Fallen

Received an email from a Lance McDermott which stated, inter alia;

... ...I was out at Springvale today and came across the grave of one of your own, 38939 Barleif Alfred HARSTAD. Looking at the date and the age of this soldier when he died I thought he might have been a casualty in Vietnam so did a bit of research when I got home and found that he was KIA in Phuoc Tuy Province on 6AUG67.

...I've previously found a couple of war graves in Berwick that were in terrible state and when I contacted OAWG I was told that because these soldiers were "commemorated" in the Garden of Remembrance at Springvale, there was no requirement for OAWG to maintain the actual grave. It appears that this is also the case with Barleif and I find it appalling that a young man of 21 years of age who gave his life in the service of his country should be treated this way. I feel that this "cost cutting exercise" by OAWG needs to cease and that the actual resting place of personnel, both KIA and returned from Active Service, be maintained in perpetuity.

I phoned the Office of Australian War Graves and had a lengthy conversation with the rep who promised to look into it and get back to me.

The worn-out Head Stone



War Graves Office did respond and quickly

Dear Kev

Thank you for your time on the phone this afternoon.

I write to confirm that the Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG) will provide a new plaque for the grave of Barleif Alfred Harstad, located within the A.F Alway Lawn in the Springvale Botanical Cemetery, Victoria. For your information, I attach a photograph of the current plaque.

As a casualty of the Vietnam War, Mr Harstad's commemoration will be maintained in perpetuity by OAWG.

I hope this information is of assistance to you. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely

*Ms Kerry Russell
Manager*

Lessons.

It is up to us to monitor the condition of the graves of our fallen and when we notice *deterioration* we need to phone the Office of the Australian War Graves. The Office does have a monitoring system but as it didn't work in this situation we need to monitor the monitors.

They do respond.

Kev Gillett

Webmaster

PEARLS FROM VICTORIA

Vale 'Paddy' Craig – 3rd July 2018

A number of fellow 7RAR members attended Paddy's Funeral Service on 11th July to celebrate his many years of service to his country. In one of those ironies, his close friend 'Jock' Isaacs also passed away on the same day – both had joined the Australian Army on the same day at Australia House, London.

Vale Max Storey – 18th July 2018

Max lost his long 21 month battle with illness and bravely accepted his end surrounded by his family. There was a large congregation at his funeral held on 30th July, which reflected his ongoing involvement with the RSL, DVA and Kokoda Gym. He will be missed

The Victorian Committee passes our condolences to both families.

All the 7s Shrine Ceremony – 5th August



Ceremony – 5th August

Our annual ceremony was again conducted in the Sanctuary at the Shrine of Remembrance – with about 30 in attendance – representing 7thAIF, 2nd/7th AIF and 7RAR. This year we also remembered 7thAIF (39-45). The post-ceremony lunch was held at Bell's Hotel as they continue to look after us

We received some apologies for late notification but advice was passed out at last Anzac Day and the Shrine service does fall every year on the closest Sunday to the Lone Pine attack by 7th AIF and Suoi Chau Pha by 7RAR. The Committee will try to put out earlier advice in future.

Vietnam Veterans Day 18th August

Please note that this year the ceremony will be held on a Saturday. Timings for this year are 0930-1030 Gunfire Breakfast; 1030-1100 Gather at the Northern Forecourt of the Shrine; 1100 March Step Off. The service should finish after 1200 noon.

No arrangements have been made for a post-service lunch but enough show interest we can invade Bell's or another nearby hotel.

Email Tree

Why do we need this info? The Committee (led by Rob Arnott) reckon it would be great if we can let ALL our mates know what is happening around our traps. I can promise you we will not be bombarding you unnecessarily nor will your personal details be divulged to anyone else.

We have been using a program called 'Mail Chimp' but it's amazing how many emails are received but not opened - maybe some of the recipients are getting too much spam!

Our last activity for this year will be our breakup - if you don't get warning of the date please let Ian Dunn know

For our interstate Pigs - please contact us so we can give you up-to-date info as well, our email contact is Ian Dunn (dunn@techinfo.com.au)

Parting Shot

You may have a heart of gold - but so does a hard-boiled egg
(sign seen in Smith St Mall, Darwin)

Bill Anderson

0419-877-463 lastwill@hotmail.net.au

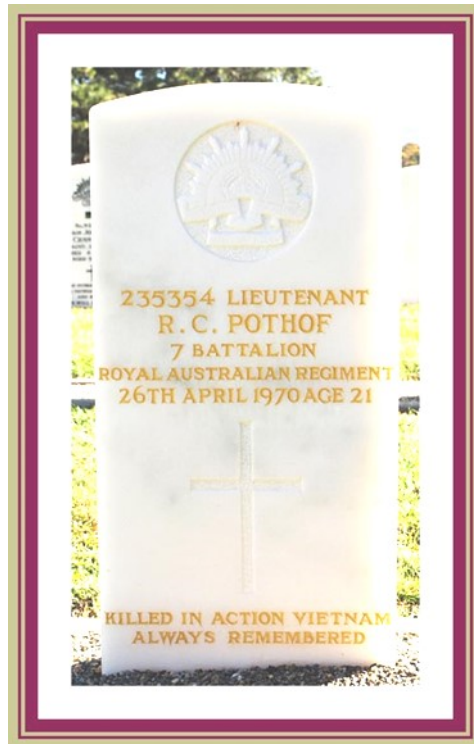
A LOOK BACK IN TIME



US Army 155mm self propelled gun - Horseshoe - 1970

Last Post Ceremony

Australian War Memorial



On Sunday 9th December, 2018 at 4.55 p.m.
the Last Post Ceremony,
at Australian War Memorial, Canberra A.C.T.
will be in honour of:

235354 Lt. Robin Christiaan POTHOF

Killed in Action whilst commanding 9 Platoon C Company 7 RAR

On

26th. April 1970

7 RAR Association will be represented and all members are invited to attend.

For further information (see Association Website or Facebook Page)



HOLDFAST

August 2018 - Number 32

www.tunnelrats.com.au

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VIETNAM TUNNEL RATS ASSOCIATION INC.



Our mate from the Tunnel Rats send us a copy of their magazine every time they produce their mag so I thought it was appropriate we should look at their latest front cover.



Un-believable! a Holden Ute - Downtown Baria - 1970

Above: A Holden Ute in Baria.

Below: The boys relaxing on the Beach at NDP Brigid.



Cpl Chris Read - Rebuilding sleeping bays
NDP Brigid - 1970