

From the President

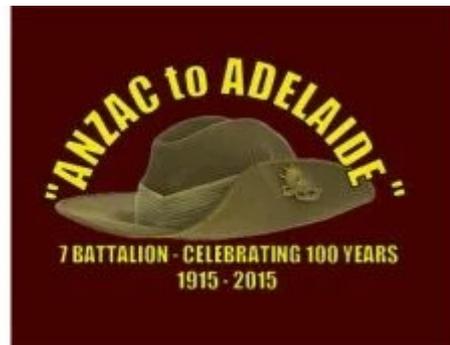
By the time this edition of Seven News reaches your mailbox another Anzac Day will have passed by, but I hope you will have taken the opportunity to catch up with old mates and swap a few stories.

Recently there have been a couple of contemporary ex-servicemen, including one ex 7 RAR man and another ex 5/7 RAR man who have fallen on hard times. In both cases, they maintained contact with their mates on social media and the regimental family swung into action quickly and both men are back on track. Social media often gets a bad rap, but I would offer that it is a very useful means of staying in contact particularly those who may be living in more isolated areas around Australia.

A key organisation in notifying us about these two men was RAR Overwatch. RAR Overwatch is a small group of ex-servicemen who maintain a presence on-line. They are a well-regarded organisation with an impressive network. Their system is quite detailed, but in essence, they identify when there is a man struggling, they then identify a volunteer in that region who reaches out and makes contact. While the initial contact occurs, RAR Overwatch works to initiate the necessary welfare support. Those of you who are Facebook users may want to check them out, and you may be in a position to help out. The only requirement is that you are willing and able to reach out to a mate in your city or town if needed.

It was great to see Major Darren Tyson recognised in the Australia Day Honours and Awards in January. Many of you will know that Darren started his career as a private soldier in 5/7 RAR, rising through the ranks to sergeant before commissioning. He served in 7 RAR at the ranks of captain and major. In recognition for his service as OC B Company in Afghanistan he was awarded the Commendation for Distinguished Service. Darren is currently at the Australian Command and Staff College in Canberra. He is pictured below with his wife Terry and their sons, and the Governor General and Lady Cosgrove on the day of his investiture.





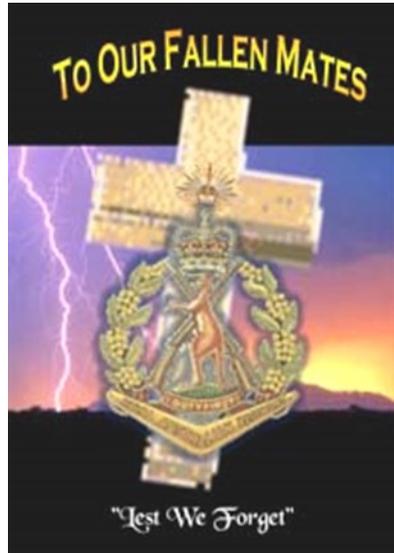
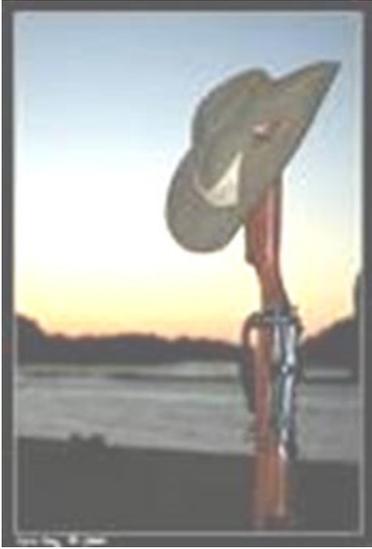
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APRIL TO AUGUST ACTIVITY CALENDAR

- Thu 25 April: ANZAC Day all States.
- Sun 23 June: Association AGM Canberra, Legacy House 1100hrs.
- Tue 06 Aug: 52nd Anniversary Battle of Suio Chau Pha.
- Fri 09 Aug: Cut-Off date for articles for 2/2019 even News.
- Sun 18 Aug: 53rd Anniversary Battle of Long Tan, Vietnam Veteran's Day.
- Mon 20 Aug: Post/Email 2/2019 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.**

**2782252 Joseph Maiurano, A/CHQ 1st tour, passed away Monday
26 November 2018.**

**313471 Hugh Charles Latrobe, 2nd tour, passed away on Thursday
27 December 2018.**

**5714235 Ronald James Anderton, B/CHQ 1st tour, passed away
Thursday 17 January 2019.**

**313471 52765 Kenneth John Bladen, AM, OC SPT Coy 1st tour,
passed away Friday 22 February 2019.**

**2792101 William Ernest Pockett, 2nd tour, notice advised in March
issue of Reveille.**



From the EDITOR'S DESK

As we approach ANZAC Day and all the commemorations around Australia and overseas please remember all our mates and their families and friends as we all get a little older. Please keep in contact with those mates who are close to your locations and keep us informed on their welfare.

As you may be aware the changes within the DVA and the support they provide that is being promulgated via the electronic and published media outlets.

Please note the article on page 11 dealing with the Defence Veterans' Covenant announced by the Government last year. As the years roll by we must keep an eye on our mates and make sure if they need some assistance then we let the organisations that can provide that assistance get involved. It is beholding to all of us to let the leaders of the Association know if and when someone may need our help. Bear in mind there are a lot of our members who are involved with agencies around the country that can provide assistance or let those agencies who do this know of the need for their help.

Recently I attended a ceremony at the local primary school near where I live to celebrate the ANZAC memories left behind by our First ANZAC's, it was a very well organised activity presented by the youngster from the school and performed very well in recognizing the standards the ANZACS set for all the world to know how gallantly they performed which set those standards for all the troops that followed them throughout history up to today. Well done Kids.

ANZAC DAY MARCH SYDNEY

Infantry Units form up in order 1RAR to 9RAR in Bligh Street, the march starts at 0900hrs. Start point is corner Hunter and Elizabeth streets and proceeds down Elizabeth street to the dispersal area is in Hunter street adjacent to the Museum Station. The ANZAC Commemoration Service is held at the ANZAC Memorial, Hyde Park, adjacent to the Pool of Remembrance, commencing at 1230 hrs. Map of the march on following two pages.

Tony Keech XO/ED



Sydney ANZAC Day March Map 2019

20 KEVELLE

KEY

- Band Chino (Western side of Elizabeth Street)
- March Path
- Participant Flow
- Contingent
- Viewing Area
- Toilets
- Wheelchair Accessible
- Viewing Area
- Toilets

CONTINGENT

- 1 Police Metropolitan Police NSW (Tombston)
- 2 Mounted Police
- 3 ANZAC Day Band
- 4 PM The Governor - ADC's
- 5 Memorial Procession
- 6 RSL NSW
- 7 Australia on Flag - Air Cadets
- 8 Tanks
- 9 Fleet Commander & Serving Navy
- 10 Fleet Commander & Serving Army
- 11 Air Commander & Serving RAAF
- 12 New Zealand Veterans
- 13 WWII Veterans and WWI/II - Merchant Navy & RCDP
- 14 NSW Police Yeomen
- 15 Post WWII Minc' Associations
- 16 NSW Faw and Reserve Veterans
- 17 Australian Korean War Veterans
- 18 Australian & my Training Team Vietnam
- 19 Hand Q. Corps' Australian Tank Force
- 20 Aresar
- 21 Artillery
- 22 Engineers



BLIGH STREET WHERE INFANTRY FORM UP.



Dispersal Area.



Last Post ceremony at AWM on Sunday 9 December for LT Robin Christiaan Pothof, 7RAR, KIA 2ND TOUR - GG in front of group on right.

From: Rachael Lonsdale <smiles_rachael@hotmail.com>

Message Body:

Hello, I am the Niece of Grahame Lonsdale. I was wondering if you have a newsletter that I could put an add in to ask my Uncle to ring home? If that would be possible, could you please let me know. Thank you, Rachael

Former 7 RAR Soldier Wins Sword of Honour and Queen's Medal at Royal Military College (RMC) Graduation

In an unusual double, Senior Under Officer Matthew Benn was awarded the Sword of Honour for exemplary conduct and performance of duty and the Queen's Medal for the highest aggregate marks in First and Second Class at the RMC Graduation on 11th December. The sword and medal were presented by General Sir Peter Cosgrove.

Matthew Benn served with 7 RAR in Afghanistan. He was commissioned as a lieutenant and assigned to Infantry with a posting to 6 RAR.

MAJOR PRIZES AND AWARDS

THE SWORD OF HONOUR



For exemplary conduct and performance of duty



Senior Under Officer Matthew Benn

THE QUEEN'S MEDAL



Obverse



Reverse

Awarded to the Cadet who achieves the highest aggregate marks in First and Second Class

Senior Under Officer Matthew Benn



Jane took this shot for me at the current Roman Empire Exhibition. It depicts the boar mascot of a Roman battalion (Centurian) in about 200AD. Just shows our Porky Seven goes back a long long long way!!!

Warm regards, David Kibbey.

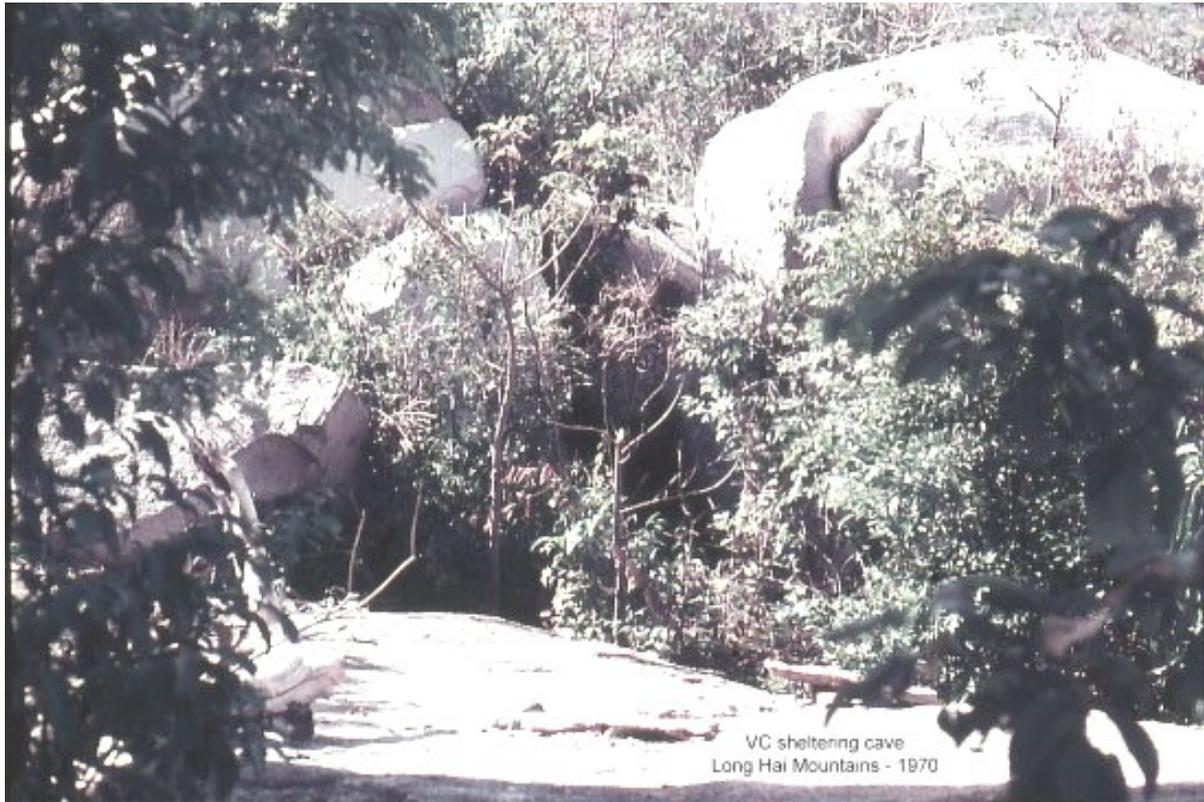


Every day is market day at Dat Do - 1970

A TIME TO REMEMBER: 49 YEARS AGO IN VIETNAM.



Bridge under construction - Haven't a clue where - 1970



VC sheltering cave
Long Hai Mountains - 1970



RAN shelling VC positions on the Long Hai Mountains - Brigid - 1970



My grand daughter who was the only "foreigner" on the plane Miracle on the Hudson at the 10th anniversary celebrating this event - note just how far our flag has gone.

Oink Don Cruden.



Australian Veterans' Covenant and card coming soon

23/01/2019 Brian Hartigan

The Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant was **announced** by the government on 27 October last year.

The Covenant encourages Australia to recognise and acknowledge the unique nature of military service, and support veterans and their families.

The Covenant includes an oath, which the Australian people will be encouraged to take at community commemorative events, such as Remembrance Day.

The new Veteran Card and an Australian Veteran Lapel Pin and a Reservist Lapel Pin underpin the Covenant.

The intention of the Covenant is to provide employers, businesses, local communities, and veteran and sporting organisations the opportunity to commit to supporting veterans and their families.

Cards will be issued automatically - first to new DVA 'customers' followed automatically to existing DVA health card holders (Gold or White) and concession card holders (Orange).

The new-look card will be issued automatically over coming months, along with a Veteran Lapel Pin and Oath as part of a phased roll-out.



CHECK THIS WEBSITE OUT FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS.

<https://www.dva.gov.au/benefits-and-payments/australian-defence-veterans-covenant>

ARLINGTON CEMETERY

Jeopardy Question:

On

Jeopardy the other night, the final question was
"How many steps does the guard take during his
walk across the tomb of the Unknowns?"

1.

How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why?

21 steps: It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute which is the highest honour given any military or foreign dignitary.

2.

How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why?

21 seconds for the same reason as answer number 1

3.

Why are his gloves wet?

His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.

4.

Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time and, if not, why not?

He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.

5.

How often are the guards changed?

Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.

6.

What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?

For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5' 10" and 6' 2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30.

They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform or the tomb in any way.

After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin.

The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt.

There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.

The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone nor watch TV.

All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery .

A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred. Among the notables are:

**President Taft,
Joe Lewis {the boxer}
Medal of Honor winner Audie L. Murphy, the most decorated soldier of WWII and of Hollywood fame.**

God Bless and keep them.

Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

ETERNAL REST GRANT THEM O LORD AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM.

In

2003 as Hurricane Isabelle was approaching Washington , DC our US Senate/House took 2 days off with anticipation of the storm. On the ABC evening news, it was reported that because of the dangers from the hurricane, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment.

They respectfully declined the offer, "No way, Sir!" Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment, it was the highest honour that can be afforded to a service person.

The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

God

Bless and keep them.

I'd be

very proud if this email reached as many as possible. We can be very proud of our men and women in the service no matter where they serve.

If you have recently received an email from a business called Veteran Benefits Australia, please delete it. This is a cynical attempt by an existing company to take advantage of the benefits available to veterans and war widows and to circumvent DVA's policy on the conduct and advertising for Allied Health professionals. It is exactly this sort of thing that has caused DVA to implement the new referral system for Allied Health services, that starts in July. Greedy business causing hardship for veterans and war widows.

You may want to contact the business concerned and ask them how they got your email address.

This and other disgraceful conduct has been reported to DVA Fraud and Compliance.

If you need physio, a dietitian, an exercise physiologist etc - ask your GP for a referral to somebody that they recommend. Be deeply suspicious of any individual or business who makes unsolicited contact with you. They don't care about us - they just care about tapping in to the lucrative DVA pot of money.



Nui Dat Hill 2014: occupied by some friendly Goats.

SEEN IN THE USA – FROM STEVE TAYLOR B4 2ND TOUR



FROM BILL FOGARTY

Michael (Mike) Coleridge will always be remembered for the photograph he took on 26 August 1967 of a group of soldiers of 5 Platoon, B Company, 7RAR, waiting for an Iroquois helicopter to land and take them back to Nui Dat at the end of Operation Ulmarra. This photograph has become an Australian icon of the Vietnam War and is graphically featured on the Vietnam National Memorial on ANZAC Parade in Canberra. But this is just one of 558 still photographs and 54 films taken in Vietnam by Mike Coleridge in the Australian War Memorial's collection.

Coleridge was born in Slovenia on 11 July 1933. At the end of the Second World War his parents' marriage failed, and he accompanied his mother to Austria, before migrating to Australia as an unaccompanied 16-year-old. As a young man, he worked in a range of manual jobs in Sydney, always struggling to make his junior wages cover his expenses. At 18 he found work on a property in rural New South Wales, where his circumstances improved and his life assumed some degree of normality. A young man looking for adventure, he eventually found his way to Darwin. Life in the Northern Territory was exciting, and during this time he learnt to fly and was awarded a private pilot's license.

In 1957 Coleridge enlisted in the Australian Army, hoping to enter the fledgling Army Aviation Corps. Believing the recruiting sergeant's assurances that he could transfer after completing his recruit training, he signed up; however, his lack of formal education proved a barrier to army pilot training and he found himself a gunner in the Royal Australian Artillery Corps. He never realised his ambition to fly. Gunner Coleridge was posted to Malaysia in 1961, and during his tour he privately made films for the British Army using his own cameras.

On his return to Australia in 1963, Coleridge sought a transfer to the Royal Australian Army Education Corps as a public relations photographer. During this time he married and had two children. But his marriage failed, leaving him with his two children of his own and another his wife had brought to the marriage. Coleridge, now a single father, was posted to Vietnam. With much difficulty, and without any support from the Army, he arranged for a family in Melbourne to care for his children. Sergeant Coleridge arrived in Vietnam on 19 November 1966, and although posted to Headquarters in Saigon, he spent most of his time at the new 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) base at Nui Dat. Over the next 12 months he recorded the activities of 5RAR, 6RAR and 7RAR and other elements of 1ATF. There were no facilities at the 1ATF base for a photographer, so he constructed a makeshift darkroom, in which he developed his own films.

Coleridge operated independently, accompanying soldiers on operations, seeking out images to satisfy the needs of the Public Relations Officer in Saigon and taking many photographs in response to the conflict that surrounded him, including many shots of Australian soldiers moving through the Vietnamese landscape.

Like many photographers of the time, he always carried a number of cameras, including 35 mm and 120 still cameras and frequently a 16 mm Bell and Howell movie camera. Using his own initiative, Coleridge started using colour film in both his still and movie cameras. However, the army was geared to providing the print media and TV with black-and-white images, and so initially it didn't support Coleridge's use of colour. Because the army only supplied black-and-white film, colour film and colour stock either had to be traded with other photographers or purchased privately. Colour film had to be processed privately in Saigon, and as most of his salary was spent supporting his three children back in Australia this must have been very difficult for him.

Many of Coleridge's colour film stills, and the colour films of the photographers who followed him, were duplicated in black-and-white for use in the media. Coleridge's persistence was eventually rewarded by the Army Public Relations Directorate in Canberra: a signal sent to Saigon in September 1967 acknowledged both the high standard of the colour footage and the fact that Coleridge had provided the colour stock personally, and advised that replacement stock would be dispatched from Canberra.

After completing his tour of Vietnam on 21 November 1967, Coleridge was posted to Melbourne. His period of enlistment had expired and he resisted the Army's efforts to keep him, realising how difficult it would be to continue serving as a single father.

Over the decades that followed the war, Mike Coleridge travelled the countryside, finding work wherever he could. He worked for a time as a photographer for the Melbourne Truth and at other jobs, always supporting his two children. He moved to Darwin and then, in the early 1970s, to North Queensland, where he drove steam locos in the cane fields; from there it was on to Western Australia, where he mined gold, before moving to New South Wales. He and his children settled in Canberra in 1984, where he worked for a time as an attendant at the Australian War Memorial. With his children now grown up, he found some relief from his responsibilities and began growing chestnuts on a small property at Jerangle, New South Wales. His final move was to a property on the outskirts of Braidwood, where he raised Angus cattle.

Like many Vietnam veterans, Coleridge experienced a range of health issues, including first cancer of the bladder and more recently lung cancer. Just before Christmas 2011 he had a bad fall in his house and was taken by ambulance to the Braidwood Hospital. He was transferred to hospital in Canberra, where an X-ray revealed he had two fractured vertebrae in his lower back.

Michael Coleridge passed away peacefully in hospital in the early hours of 10 January 2012. He is survived by his son, David, daughter, Rhonda, and granddaughter, Julia.

Lest We Forget



Don Cruden's latest production, something to be used to commemorate the passing of a 7RAR member.

2019 AGM - 7th BATTALION THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN
REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC (QLD) No: 1A - 13547

By direction of the Committee of Management and in accordance with the Rules of the Association, notice is hereby given that the 2019 AGM and election of Officers to the Committee of Management will be held at: LEGACY HOUSE CANBERRA.

SUNDAY 23 JUNE 2019 COMMENCING AT 11.00 AM.

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION TO THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT ARE TO BE SUBMITTED, IN WRITING, SIGNED BY THE NOMINEE, HIS PROPOSER AND SECONDER, TO THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER BY NOT LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS FRIDAY 7 June 2019.

(FORMS ARE ON THE PAGE OPPOSITE)

BUSINESS

Any points for general business are to be submitted in writing to the Executive Officer not later than close of business, FRIDAY 7 JUNE 2019.

ATTENDANCE

Members attending please advise the XO not later than FRIDAY 7 June 2019. If you cannot attend please appoint a proxy on your behalf using the form on page 35 of this newsletter and return to the Executive Officer not later than close of business, FRIDAY 7 June 2019.

Please be advised that in accordance with the Rules of the Association a minimum of 18 members must be in attendance to constitute a quorum, this number includes signed proxy forms. To ensure the efficient running of the association please make the effort to attend, please appreciate that the members of the Committee of Management give their time freely and any adjournment due to the lack of numbers will necessitate the meeting to be adjourned and rescheduled to take place within ONE week of this date.

(PLEASE MAKE AN EFFORT TO ATTEND THIS MEETING, FOR CATERING PURPOSES PLEASE ADVISE THE XO IF YOU WILL BE ATTENDING NOT LATER THAN FRIDAY 7 June 2019).

FORM APPOINTING A PROXY FOR THE 7RAR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY 23 JUNE 2019

I.....Member Number.....Being a financial member of the 7RAR Association hereby appoint.....Or in his absence appoint..... To act as a proxy on my behalf at the (Annual) General Meeting for the twelve months commencing 23 Jun 2019. The person nominated as my proxy is to vote (in favour of/ or against*) (one or all*) of the resolution/s as indicated by me.

Signature.....Signed this.....Day of.....2019

Printed Name

(*Strike out that which you consider not applicable. Unless otherwise instructed, the person nominated above may vote as he thinks fit. To be valid the proxy form must be held by the Executive Officer and the person nominated to act as the proxy must be present at the meeting).

A list of the Committee of Management is detailed below. (Members are requested to consider nominating for the positions of Assistants to the Executive Officer/Treasurer/Secretary/Webmaster to understudy these crucial positions).

7RAR ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2018-2019.

- President: - COLONEL MICHAEL GARRAWAY, AM;**
- Immediate Past President:- MAJGEN MIKE O"BRIEN, CSC;**
- Vice Presidents: - BRIG SHANE GABRIEL, DSC;**
- Secretary/Webmaster: - MR KEVIN GILLETT;**
- Treasurer: - MR BERNIE COX ;**
- Executive Officer: - MR TONY KEECH, OAM;**
- Members: - MR BOB MURDOCH**
- MR BRICE STOKES; AND**
- M JOHN LAWSON.**
- HON ACCOUNTANT: - MR BERNARD WALMSLEY ADDERSENS**
- ACCOUNTING SERVICES.**
- HON LEGAL OFFICER: - LTCOL LACHLAN JAMES MEAD.**

**7th BATTALION THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC (QLD)**

NOMINATION FORM FOR COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

I.....hereby nominate.....

**For the position ofon the Committee of
Management of the 7RAR Association for the period of one year from
the date of the Annual General Meeting as published in the minutes
of that meeting.**

Proposed by.....Seconded by.....

Acknowledged by the nominee..... date

**7th BATTALION THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT
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THE BEST FROM THE WEST

DON AND MARGARET'S ROAD TRIP (By Don Cruden)

Mid November Margaret and I spent 3 days touring briefly around parts of our South West. What I should have done was find out if any of our members lived in the areas we were touring. We stopped to view a War Memorial at Muradup just out of Kojonup and one of the signs indicted that Robert Sexton served in SVN with 7 RAR. Well, got home and rang Robert and learnt about the War memorial - it is supposed to be "maybe" the oldest WW1 Memorial in Australia with the AWM having sent a film crew to record some of this Memorial's history. What is important is that a community spirit developed to ensure the Memorial was covered from the elements.

A big part of that development found our Robert involved with other locals in ensuring a least another 100 years existence of this Memorial. Many Memorials around Australia are outside - weathered - and unless local community members take action now, like those from MURADUP then this form of history will be lost forever. Robert also has written 2 booklets: "The Muradup War Memorial story 1916-2016" and "The Kojonup Citizens Who Enlisted for Service WW1 1914 - 1918". Both books give a wonderful history of each individual so giving a lasting legacy for family members.

My phone call with Robert led me to Ross Croft in Nannup, a town we had passed through not realising another of our members resided there. Ross is a local JP and ambulance driver which gives credence to the SBS documentaries "There are a million stories out there" and believe me - all our members have a wonderful story to tell.

A big thank you to Robert for donation of the books and also to Ross for the later chat we had on the phone. I promise future trips I will check out if any members reside in the area of my travels.

oink!!! Don

7RAR FLAGS in VARIOUS LOCATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Don Cruden's decision to have 7RAR flags made available to members and families has really paid off, with members sending in photos of just where their flags have been seen. The following photos show some of the locations our flags have appeared and we encourage members to take their flags with them when they travel and send us the photos.

There will be more featured in the next edition of The Newsletter.



The flag outside the White House.



The flag in Washington.



The flag and hat in Paris

Note, Don has 5 flags left, no more will be produced, EVER. If you're interested in purchasing one of these last 5 flags, contact Don on (08) 9374 0014.

HOW YOUNG WE WERE

This is a bit of a “blast from the past”, how many can you recognise.



Rear L to R: Allan West, Peter Wilson, Jeff Wilkie, Tony “Silver” Martin, Bob Curry, Geoff Lawson, Geoff “Bluey” Dunne (obscured), Len Bell, Daryl Kennedy, Warren Davey, Alex Mackenzie, Gordon Dickson, Noel Bell.

Front L to R: Don Cruden, Doug “Spunky” Fieldhouse, Geoff Brophy, Keith “Kanga” Battersby.

RON ANDERTON’S FUNERAL by Don Cruden

The funeral for our late Member Ronald Anderton was held on Thurs. 31st Jan and well attended by family members and friends - we had Steve Chamarette, Spunky, Don Cruden, John Davies, Geoff & Irene Brophy, Bob & Barbara Curry, Bill & Joyce Henderson, Daryl & Kay Kennedy with a few more ex-service personnel in attendance.

Brother Bruce (ex a few Battalions over 25 years’ service, reaching the rank of WO1) had some very kind words about 7RAR and told the story that Ronald in early 1990 had attended the WA Branch session after an Anzac Day march and won the raffle prize which was a porcelain PIG, which had been made by Spunky’s wife at the time.

So, the PIG was produced onto the lectern, much to the delight of the audience. Once a PIG, always a PIG.

KEN BLADEN'S FUNERAL by Don Cruden:

A most impressive service was held on Thur 7 March for our late member Ken Bladen and there was certainly a crowd of mourners for his farewell. 7RAR attendees were: Spunky Fieldhouse, Barbara & Bob Curry, Steve Chamarette, Graham Edwards AM (complete with his new electric chair also did the honours reading the 23rd Psalm), Don Cruden, John Davies, Charlie Matheson, Patricia Bell, Ian Garthwaite, Glen Moore, Graham Ross MC and Johann Vanderwal. The procession to the chapel had the Scottish piper playing 7RAR's "Ode to the North" and the service conclusion was our own "Australaise".

A highlight of the service was Ken's rendition of him singing "The Impossible Dream" and one of my favourite songs "Old Slouch Hat". I have a copy of Ken's CD containing these songs, titled "Songs my father taught me" - a wonderful collection of songs.

Our sincere sympathy to Stephanie and all family members

Don Cruden

ANOTHER VIEW OF KEN BLADEN'S FUNERAL by John Davies

The funeral went off very well indeed, the ladies in the maroon hats did a fab job. The piper, Viv RILEY, ushered the hearse to the front door flanked by a 10 strong escort from the RSL (Highgate sub-branch being the organiser). The celebrant, Kev GRAHAM, was nothing short of superb in his presentation. The SAS prayer was read by John PETRIE AM, the current president of the WA branch, the eulogies by Capt Wayne GARDINER OAM and Ken's daughters Louise and Emma gave the mourners a deeper insight to Ken's long and full life.

The honour guard folded the flag (correctly, according to Spunky's photocopied SOP's) which was followed by Graham EDWARDS reading of the 23rd psalm. The ode was delivered by Geoff HOURN (president of the Highgate RSL) and the bugler, David SCOTT played the last post and reveille.

Attendees were then offered light refreshments and a chance to meet the family.

Among those that attended the service and/or the wake included:

representing SAS - John PETRIE (president SAS WA) and Mick RUFFIN;

Representing 7RAR - Joe Van Der WAL, Glen MOORE, Charlie MATHESON, Don CRUDEN, Doug FIELDHOUSE, Ian GARTHWAITE, Steve CHAMARETTE, Peter WILSON, Graham EDWARDS AM, our intrepid photographer John DAVIES and Graham ROSS MC;

representing 21SAS (Brit) - Nic MARSHALL and

Representing 1PARA (Brit) - John PITMAN. Other military units and the RSL were represented but too many to include here.

The current RSM of the SAS Regiment made himself available at the wake, a gesture of great significance as both he and the CO are as busy as (one legged Indians in an arse kicking competition) all get-up.



Ken Bladen's casket enters the chapel.

ALWAYS KEEN TO ACCEPT DONATIONS

A BIG thank you to Dale and Deb Marshall for their donation to our branch funds. They put \$40 into our account thinking Dale owed membership fees - having straightened them out they said make it a donation. Thanks guys.



Ken Bladen's medal group.

CHRIS WARK HOSPITALISED

Chris Wark was recently hospitalised and his operation was considered successful, however checks are required to ensure all is cleared. Chris's wife stayed in Crawford House Nedlands (local housing for country people attending hospital) during Chris's time in hospital. Chris was visited by Don Cruden.

DEATH OF OLIVE CROUCH

The widow of Noel CROUCH (KIA June 1970, 2nd Tour) Olive died peacefully in Albany on 15 Dec 2018. Her Sister-in-Law Val O'BRIEN (Hon member of our Association) visited ALBANY for her service.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH - ADVANCE WARNING

Christmas lunch will be held at "The Shoe" in Yagan Square on Wed. 11th Dec. Very close to Public Transport so very handy for those who don't want to drink and drive.

ROBIN POTHOF'S (KIA 26 Apr 1970) "LAST POST CEREMONY"

A number of the past 7RAR Officers and NCO's were at Robin's "Last Post Ceremony" at the Australian War Memorial on Sunday 9 December 2018. The Governor General, who was a class-mate of Robin's at Royal Military College, also attended. He is talking to Mike O'Brien in the photo below.



ANZAC DAY PERTH 2019

According to latest listening post we will still have a band in front of us – great – it appears we will be in same position roughly St Georges Tce out front of either dome or London court area. Members please check West Australian newspaper as time draws nearer just in case they have an alteration. Then it is back to “Rigby’s” after the march for our usual “few” beers and food.

NAMETAGS (Note: For BOTH Men and Women)

Costs: Small Tag (6cm x 4cm) \$13 including delivery.

Large Tag (9cm x 6cm) \$18 including delivery.

Payments: Post cheque (made out to G Murray) or Money Order to:

Geoff Murray

30 Bouvardia Way

Greenwood WA 6024

Or: Electronic Funds Transfer to:

BSB 066132

Account 00913220



NEWSLETTER - WA MEMBERS

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

PEARLS FROM VICTORIA

Christmas Visitors

It's always great to catch up with old friends who come to visit us in Melbourne. The first interstaters were Tony and Carol Carr from South Australia for their annual shopping spree. Pictured at the front are Ray Ogden, Rob Arnott to the left and Tony Carr and Bill Anderson to the right.



A couple of weeks later Noel and Patricia Bell came across from Western Australia to visit family and friends. We caught up with them at the Box Hill RSL for another enjoyable lunch.

If here are any other travellers to 'Marvellous Melbourne' we'd be delighted to catch up - especially if you can time it for one of our Committee

meetings at East Malvern RSL (2nd Wednesday of each month, starting at 11.00am)

John O'Connor Award, St Bernard's College (February 8, 2019)

This award is named in honour of the only St Bernards College student to die on active military service. John, known as 'Speedy' was seriously wounded at Suoi Chau Pha and died of his wounds the day before his 26th birthday. Speedy joined the ARA in 1960 and served with 3RAR before being posted to 7RAR. The Award recognises strong leadership at Year 12 level and a contribution to the school community - as well as being a role model for other students over the previous year. This year's recipient is Harry Catterill, pictured here with Trisha Davidson (Speedy's sister) who flew down for the ceremony. 7RAR was again represented by Johnno Johnson, Ron Ring, Merv Hellyer and Bill Anderson Harry has been accepted into the Australian Catholic University to study nursing and we wish him well in his future.



Younger Veterans

Whilst attending a recent meeting of the RAR Association I heard that the Tramways and East Melbourne RSL now have a large number of younger veterans as members (i.e. not ex-Vietnam) meeting on a regular basis. At last count there were about 62 members from all corps, with some 15 from Infantry – including some 7RAR (Iraq, Afghanistan). They have a Facebook page so you find out more info from there.

Anzac Day 2019

This year's Anzac Day March will have an earlier start than ever before. According to the March details the RAR will be stepping off at 0905. In view of the previous years where timing was less than ideal it is suggested that you arrive well before 0905. We intend having our banner up by at least 0845. 7RAR will be tail-end Charlie this year as we led in 2018. Form Up Point as per previous years – south side of Collins St uphill from Swanston veteran/conflicts leading

We would be delighted to have any younger 7RAR members attend. We are all 7RAR – not just Vietnam era because 7RAR has been very active in recent operations; besides some fresh (young) faces would be very nice to see.

Anzac Day Post-March Arrangements

Bell's Hotel (197 Moray St South Melbourne) has welcomed us again this year with the offer of a special menu (but only upstairs). We have the same upstairs area as 2018; overall it should be a great space for us to gather afterwards. It will, as usual, give us the chance to call our own Roll of Honour and if you would like to contribute to the Call please let Rob Arnott or Bill Anderson know.

Please note because of Victorian licencing regulations the hotel can't sell alcohol until 12:00 noon – we are working with Bell's to see what we can arrange. Doors will be open at 11.00, entry via Tope St at the side.

Parting Shot

Never teach a pig to sing; it wastes your time and it annoys the pig.

-Robert Heinlein

Bill Anderson

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



Smoko time brings refreshments at the Horseshoe - 1970

EVERYMANS REFRESHMENTS WAGON AT THE HORSESHOE – 1970

Pigs in Paradise

10 Years ago.....

7RAR on Operations- A group of Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicles sit in overwatch as soldiers from 7RAR patrol the green zone. This patrol was part of a wider operation to clear insurgents from the Chora/Balluchi valley and establish COP MASHAL in 2009.



An old mate of mine, Bill Charlton, is a prolific poet and just last week I noticed this one commemorating our 7RAR mate Jim Cox

JAMES G COX

7RAR

James was a film assistant who worked for the ABC.

The 22 year old from Rockhampton was drafted into the Infantry.

It was 1966 and after his training had gone to plan.

Our soldier was posted to 7RAR and sent to Viet Nam.

He was based in Phuoc Tuy Province and lived in a sand-bagged tent.

There was danger all around - everywhere they went.

But like the other men 'round him he accepted it as his lot.

They did not want to be there, but shirkers they were not.

Life involved constant patrolling and their roles were never easy.

Sweating it out in the jungle in conditions anything but pleasing.

They lived in constant danger with the enemy unforgiving.

Another of our conscripts lost in this senseless war.
They fought for their country bravely, and still we ask - what for?
No-one can doubt their courage - they did their duty well.
James was a statistic of the war who served his time in hell!
Bill Charlton c 2018
Not the best of his work but the thought is there and it's topical for us

I received this email from Noel Biggins last week;
CHRIS O'NEIL

It is with bitter-sweet feelings that I find myself having to report on the rapidly failing health of our deeply respected brother, Chris O'Neil.
After a prolonged period of deteriorating ill-health, Chris is now resident in the Ross Robertson Aged Care facility in Victor Harbor, South Australia.
He has lost one eye to disease, and is now clinically depressed and suffering from rapidly encroaching dementia.
He also lost his beloved dog last year, and as a long-term dog-handler in the army, he has been truly lost without his mate.
Fortunately, and after intercession by the Public Advocate, we were able to get Chris another dog which now lives with him in the home. To say that Chris was excited at getting the dog is an understatement.

However, Chris's health continues to decline rapidly, and he clearly needed a break from the home. As such, the 7RAR members here in South Australia managed to convince the authorities that a holiday would be beneficial for Chris, and after an extremely generous offer of free board and lodgings, food, etc from an old navy submariner - Ray Louth, and his beautiful wife Gillian - who live on a large property just outside Devonport in Tasmania - we managed to get Chris away for 12 days R&R.
One of our 7RAR boys - Steve Csorba, and an 8RAR boy, Gavin Power drove Chris down and back, and they were also graciously hosted free of charge by the Louth's.

Upon return, Chris was clearly improved emotionally, and it was a pleasure to see him somewhat happy again - albeit perhaps for only a short while.

We have also managed to obtain - free of charge - the services of a local aged care worker for Chris, who will see him a couple of times each week and take him out for coffee, walks and talks, and also make sure that the dog is getting proper attention and grooming.

There are some wonderful, generous people out there - perhaps the most caring and generous, however, are the Louth's who spared no expense or effort to ensure that Chris had a wonderful time (even though they are not 7RAR). Attached is a photo of Chris sitting in a chair at the Louth's ringing his bell, and demanding "Steward" loudly and often - made me feel happy to see it.

In summary, however, Chris is failing rapidly and I would suggest that any of his old mates who might like to speak with him do so sooner rather than later.

If any of you need contact details, PM me.

In brotherhood Noel Biggins



ANZAC DAY Brisbane

Order of March

SECTION B - Step off 1030hrs

49. THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION QLD

50. 4 RAR ASSOCIATION

51. 5 RAR ASSOCIATION

52. 6 RAR ASSOCIATION

53. 7 RAR ASSOCIATION

54. 8 RAR ASSOCIATION

55. 9 RAR ASSOCIATION

56. 2/4 RAR ASSOCIATION

57. 8/9 RAR ASSOCIATION

58. 5/7 RAR ASSOCIATION

59. 1 RAR ASSOCIATION

60. 2 RAR ASSOCIATION

61. 3 RAR ASSOCIATION

62. SPECIAL AIR SERVICE ASSOCIATION

63. 9 TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION

Reunion.

It got too crowded at the Grand Central last year what with having to queue to get in with the whole regiment, so this year we have a change of venue.

After a tip from Peter Lloyd I went and spoke to the people at the Westin Hotel on Mary Street. Good venue, cheap meals to satisfy the licencing laws and a promise of a discount on bar prices.

Thus, RV at the Westin Hotel 114 Mary Street after the march (Just a bit below where we form up to start the march)



An ex Pig now a Publican in Melbourne

The Cheeky Pint @ 231 Barkly Street West Footscray VIC 3011 is now run by ex Pig Mitchell Peacock who was proud to have served with the Bn on MRTF-1.

If you're in Melbourne and looking for some company in a Pig-friendly establishment then drop in and say hullo to Mitch.



Mitchell says "we will be open on ANZAC Day, and also running our two-up game. A percentage of our profits from the day will be donated to Young Veterans."



Kev Gillett

Brisbane