



Porky Seven News COVID 19 Edition



Edition 54 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battaion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. April 2020



From the President

Firstly may I pass on my best wishes to all members and their families during these difficult times. I know many of you will have been effected by the recent fires across the eastern and southern states and we now find ourselves in the middle of a pandemic known as the Coronavirus. Now more than ever, is the time to reach out on the phone to that mate who you haven't spoken to for a while and check on him.

As you would expect, the Pig Battalion was front and centre during the bushfire crisis. I can personally attest to the great work they did on the south coast of NSW and around the ACT, and I received very good feedback on their performance in Victoria from my counterpart in the Victorian Task Force. The work they did in southern NSW provided great relief to communities

who had experiences significant loss during early January, and the preventative work they did in and

around the ACT was essential in protecting it from the fire and in helping residents prepare for evacuation.

As you might expect the whole of the Defence Force has been put onto an operational footing to help deal with the Coronavirus. Given the highly contagious nature of the virus and the requirement to limit interstate travel, the Defence response is state based and therefore the Battalion is most likely to remain in SA unless other states' capabilities are degraded very significantly. In a similar manner to our response to the fires, I would expect to see soldiers employed on a range of tasks where workforces are depleted or unavailable. Here in NSW for example, troops are already employed in a variety of tasks such as preparing welfare food packages, escorting air arrivals into quarantine, and providing staff in medical call centres. I expect they'll remain on those tasks until a contracted workforce is arranged. In Victoria, small numbers of troops are working in a surgical mask manufacturing firm as assisting with quarantine compliance. Regardless of



what is asked of them, I'm sure the Battalion will be up to the task.

I know all of you will be disappointed that the Coronavirus has taken away our opportunity to gather for ANZAC Day. A number of you were involved in planning Company level reunions in Adelaide and I thank people such as Greg Shepley and Rob Gilles for their work.

Given the nature of the threat and the fact that the majority of the Association are in the most vulnerable age bracket, cancelling reunions early was the most sensible approach. Noting that the intention of the lockdowns is to 'flatten the curve' and therefore delay the spread of virus, I think it will be wise to postpone all gatherings requiring

interstate travel until 2021. The Adelaide reunion would have provided the opportunity for an AGM, but given the social distancing requirements we will postpone this until it is safe to gather.

Lastly, this is one of those times where the informal network of our Association needs to come to the fore. The best way for us to maintain contact during this time is to reach out to each other on the phone or by Skype or Facetime. Your phone call will help a mate.

Stay safe

Mick Garroway

President

From the Secretary

In light of the fact that all ANZAC Day parades were cancelled due to the COVID 19 Virus the Executive decided a newsletter that basically existed to pass on all Parade and reunion details for all states was pointless and was thus cancelled. However, under the "always have a plan B" planning and with events across the nation changing by the hour as the Government struggled with the pandemic, it was then decided to go ahead with the newsletter after all, even though ANZAC Day parades were cancelled. Thus, you have a newsletter but it's not in the same format and is not being printed. It is email only. You might tell our IT Disadvantaged mates that if they go to the website (7rar.asn.au) and click on Newsletters, then Latest Newsletter all will be revealed.

The term "coronavirus" refers to a large group of viruses known to affect birds and mammals, including humans. COVID-19, which first appeared in China in December 2019, is a type of coronavirus.



Coronaviruses are named for the spiky projections on their surface. These resemble the points on a crown. Corona means “crown” in Latin.

There are hundreds of coronaviruses, but only seven are known to affect people. Four human coronaviruses only cause mild cold- or flu-like symptoms. Three other coronaviruses pose more serious risks.

COVID 19 is one of those. We Vietnam Veterans, by dint of our age (mostly over 70) are particularly prone to being affected by the virus and if you have underlying medical problems, and who amongst doesn't, then simply put, we are in danger of succumbing to the disease.

We need to be very careful

There has been a lot of conflicting information on Facebook about how to deal with the dangers of COVID 19 ranging from “Karen says drink hot water every few seconds as the virus can't exist in an environment over 70C” to “My mate says any alcohol over 60% proof will kill it” I'm not saying Karen or my mate are necessarily wrong but I for one like to get my medical advice from someone who indicates they might have some qualifications on the subject.

The following article has been attributed to Doctors in the US and has been classified as useful info for people worried about how to handle the virus. I posted it on the 7RAR Facebook page but will include it here for those who don't visit the internet:

- The virus is not a living organism, but a protein molecule (RNA) covered by a protective layer of lipid (fat), which, when absorbed by the cells of the ocular, nasal or buccal mucosa, changes their genetic code. (mutation) and convert them into aggressor and multiplier cells.
- Since the virus is not a living organism but a protein molecule, it is not killed, but decays on its own. The disintegration time depends on the temperature, humidity and type of material where it lies.
- The virus is very fragile; the only thing that protects it is a thin outer layer of fat. That is why any soap or detergent is the best remedy, because the foam CUTS the FAT (that is why you have to rub so much: for 20 seconds or more, to make a lot of foam). By dissolving the fat layer, the protein molecule disperses and breaks down on its own.
- HEAT melts fat; this is why it is so good to use water above 25 degrees Celsius for washing hands, clothes and everything. In

addition, hot water makes more foam and that makes it even more useful.

- Alcohol or any mixture with alcohol over 65% DISSOLVES ANY FAT, especially the external lipid layer of the virus.
- Any mix with 1 part bleach and 5 parts water directly dissolves the protein, breaks it down from the inside.
- Oxygenated water helps long after soap, alcohol and chlorine, because peroxide dissolves the virus protein, but you have to use it pure and it hurts your skin.
- NO BACTERICIDE SERVES. The virus is not a living organism like bacteria; they cannot kill what is not alive with antibiotics, but quickly disintegrate its structure with everything said.
- NEVER shake used or unused clothing, sheets or cloth. While it is glued to a porous surface, it is very inert and disintegrates only between 3 hours (fabric and porous), 4 hours (copper, because it is naturally antiseptic; and wood, because it removes all the moisture and does not let it peel off and disintegrates).), 24 hours (cardboard), 42 hours (metal) and 72 hours (plastic). But if you shake it or use a feather duster, the virus molecules float in the air for up to 3 hours, and can lodge in your nose.
- The virus molecules remain very stable in external cold, or artificial as air conditioners in houses and cars. They also need moisture to stay stable, and especially darkness. Therefore, dehumidified, dry, warm and bright environments will degrade it faster.
- UV LIGHT on any object that may contain it breaks down the virus protein. For example, to disinfect and reuse a mask is perfect. Be careful, it also breaks down collagen (which is protein) in the skin, eventually causing wrinkles and skin cancer. (Note added: medical advice is that the strength of the UV light is important, and is not mentioned here.)
- The virus CANNOT go through healthy skin.
- Vinegar is NOT useful because it does not break down the protective layer of fat.
- NO SPIRITS, NOR VODKA, serve. The strongest vodka is 40% alcohol, and you need 65%.
- The more confined the space, the more concentration of the virus there can be. The more open or naturally ventilated, the less.

- This is super said, but you have to wash your hands before and after touching mucosa, food, locks, knobs, switches, remote control, cell phone, watches, computers, desks, TV, etc. And when using the bathroom.
- You have to HUMIDIFY HANDS DRY from so much washing them, because the molecules can hide in the micro cracks. The thicker the moisturizer, the better.
- Also keep your NAILS SHORT so that the virus does not hide there.



Figure 1 Young Brinky at Horseshoe with Pioneer PI 7RAR 1970

STEPHEN PAUL BRINKWORTH, PNRS 2ND TOUR, PASSED AWAY 0200HRS 23 JANUARY 2020 FROM TERMINAL CANCER, AT LIVERPOOL HOSPITAL.

Extracts from a submission by Warrant Class One Darren Murch, OAM Regimental Sergeant Major - 2nd Division suggesting Brinky should be honoured for his service that, amongst other factors, **included 51 years in uniform**

Dear Sir

Many of us attended the funeral of WO2 Steve Brinkworth held at the Holsworthy Military Chapel on Saturday, 1st February 2020. I had the honour of giving the eulogy for the Brinkworth family and my aim was to capture the man and the soldier who was a close



personal friend and an consummate professional.

His funeral was attended by over four hundred people demonstrating how highly respected Steve was by his second family - the Australian Army as did over six hundred messages of condolence. I understand that WO2 Brinkworth was nominated for an Australian Honour three times without a successful result.

The purpose of my Email is to respectfully suggest that another nomination should be made from 2DIV now that WO2 Brinkworth is deceased. I believe he is worthy of public and prominent recognition and this would also provide a validation for the Brinkworth family.

Until his death WO2 Brinkworth was the longest serving member of the Royal Australian Infantry Corps - having served in the Citizen Military Forces (CMF), the Australian Regular Army (ARA) and the General Reserve. Unlike many who serve for long periods WO2 Brinkworth never developed a corrosive cynicism but believed in the Army as an institution vital to Australian national life.

WO2 Brinkworth served in the CMF in 4 RNSWR from 05 June to 18 October 1967 and in the ARA from 23 October 1967 to 25 October 1999. He then transferred to the General Reserve from 26 October 1999 to 05 September 2018.

His awards and medals are: Active Service Medal 1945-75 with Clasp Vietnam; Vietnam Medal; Defence Long Service Medal with First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Clasps; Australian Defence Medal; Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal; Returned from Active Service Badge.

WO2 Brinkworth served on the second tour of South Vietnam with 7RAR from the 16 FEB 1970 to 10 MAR 1971. He showed early talent and was promoted to LCPL on operations on 15 DEC 1970. He was an Assault Pioneer/Machine Gunner in Support Company. 7RAR arrived amidst an effort by 1ATF to pacify Phuoc Tuy Province.

This effort involved 7 RAR in almost continuous operations often on foot, to keep the Viet Cong off balance and separate them from the civilian population. The Battalion saw hard fighting and casualties included 17 killed and 89 wounded, many of them caused by mines lifted by the Viet Cong from the controversial barrier minefield laid previously by the Australians at Dat Do.

WO2 Brinkworth was foremost a field soldier who maintained a lifetime interest and expertise in the skills of an infantryman.

He was an instructor in Field Wing at RMC-D from 20 JAN 1982 to 30 MAR 1985 who had an impact on many Staff Cadets who became senior leaders of



the Australian Army. COL Stephen Tulley AM who was my Divisional Officer in CASG remembers WO2 Brinkworth well from his time at RMC-D as a Staff Cadet.

He commented to me that WO2 Brinkworth left him with a lasting impression of the highly pivotal role that Warrant Officers and Non - Commissioned Officers have in the Australian Army. WO2 Brinkworth competed many times at the Australian Army Small Arms Meeting and is well remembered by fellow competitor LT COL Russell Linwood ASM (Retd).

He was one of the Section Commanders in LTCOL Russell Linwood's first platoon in 1974.

WO2 Brinkworth was painstakingly thorough as a Senior Range Instructor and I well remember him producing nine pages of corrections to the WONCO S1CAR Range Module. I know because I typed them up.

To summarise WO2 Brinkworth's career from 1972 onwards: he was promoted to CPL on 07 Mar 1972; 5 and 7 RAR were amalgamated on 03 Dec 1973 to form 5/7RAR; he was promoted to SGT on 31 May 1976; was posted to 17 RNSWR (ARes) WEF 15

Jan 1979 as a TRG SGT; he was promoted to T/WO2 on 11 Feb 1981 and was made substantive on 30 Mar 1981; from 20 Jan 1982 to 30 Mar 1985 he was an instructor in Field Wing RMC-D; was posted 2 TRG GP from 22 Jan 1986 to 04 Jan 1991; returned to 5/7 RAR on 05 Jan 1991 to 31 Jan 1995. where he was CSM ADMIN COY for two years; was posted to 4RAR as CSM ADMIN COY from 01 Feb 1995 to 16 Jan 1996 when that bn was re-raised; was again posted to 2 TRG GP (OCTU) from 17 Jan 1996 to 26 Oct 1997 and to RTC (NSW) WEF 26 Oct 1999 onwards; transferred to the General Reserve on 06 Nov 2003 and was posted to LWC (NSW) from 21 Jan 2008 and on 01 Nov 2008 was posted to SUR and until his retirement served in TRG COY; and qualified for the Skill at Arms Badge and as a Basic Parachutist. WO2 Brinkworth always guided, mentored and inspired those that crossed his path. He possessed outstanding professional mastery and was living proof to me and many others of the motto of the Royal Australian Regiment - "Duty First".

WO2 Brinkworth fought against cancer with the courage and determination that characterised him as a soldier. I never heard him complain and WO2 Brinkworth was an example to any who face great adversity in their lives



Figure 2 Old Brinky

51 Years in uniform – well done Brinky



We also lost Frank Curphey this month. Known far and wide as The Sock due to his habit of carrying a bottle of green ginger wine contained in an army sock. It bordered on eccentric but I believe he only did it when not on duty....I think. He served twice in SVN with 2RAR then on our 2nd tour as Sig Sgt.

Well known and respected obituary notices were posted in newspapers all the way up the east coast as far as Cairns.

Frank was 91



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

WAR/70/0161/01

From a US Newspaper

Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam. 9 March 1970. A forward scout has reported sighting a fire in the jungle and Sergeant Doug Fieldhouse of Fairfield, NSW, quickly moves to get a better look. He is the mortar fire controller with 5 Platoon, B Company, 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (7RAR). The battalion was on its first operation, codenamed Finschhafen, after arriving in Vietnam aboard the HMAS Sydney for its second tour of duty in the war zone.



THE BEST FROM THE WEST

Hello PIGS everywhere, please make sure you and your families stay safe and well.

EFFECTS OF CORONAVIRUS IMPACTS US ALL

Not only have all Anzac Day services right across Australia been cancelled for 2020, we were also planning commemorative services to recognise the 50th anniversary of the deaths of two of our 7RAR brothers, Noel Crouch KIA 21st May 1970 and Paul Navarre KIA 6th June 1970. Now these services have been postponed indefinitely, however tentative dates have been suggested of 11th November for Noel and 18th November for Paul on the condition that it is safe to hold these services and permission from relevant authorities is granted. Another casualty of the Coronavirus has been our "last Friday of the month" lunches, which is a real shame as they had grown to about a dozen attendees enjoying a few yarns and beers. When the Coronavirus allows it, we will resume our lunches and advise all of the when and where etc. Lately we have been meeting at "The Shoe" in Yagan Square, great food and beers and we would probably resume there when the "all-clear" is given.

NOTE FROM VALERIE O'BRIEN, SISTER OF NOEL CROUCH

Regarding Noel's memorial service postponement. On behalf of myself and family I would like to say a great "thank you" to Graham Edwards and everyone involved in the arrangements of the service to date. I am very aware that for the health, safety and wellbeing of us all it is important to adhere to the Government restrictions in place at present. I look forward to a brighter future and my heart goes out to everyone at this trying time, wishing you all the very best, keep safe and good health. Kindest regards Valerie O'Brien

JACK DOULIS VISIT TO WA (by Patricia Bell)

Noel and Patricia Bell were very happy to hear Jack Douglas and Partner Di were coming to Perth. We decided to give Jack, or Black Jack a surprise and invite many other 7RAR members to join us, as that is what West Australians do. But alas, only 3 turned up, Noel of course, Don and Spunky, who was ably accompanied by his lovely daughter Lisa and her work mate Katelyn. We had a lovely lunch at The Left Bank in Fremantle. Even the Freo Dr. joined us bringing



back memories to Jack. Being greeted by these “boys” bought a tear to his eye. Patricia Bell

NATIONAL SERVICEMANS ASSOCIATION SERVICE

Don Cruden and Val O’Brien (sister OF Noel Crouch - KIA May 21st 1970) attended a West Australian National Serviceman's Association wreath laying ceremony on Sat 15th Feb 2020, honoring Pte John McQuat (8 RAR) and Pte Noel Crouch (7RAR). The service was held at the East Victoria Park RSL Hall and was well attended by local members.

SPUNKY’S 80TH BIRTHDAY

Our old mate Spunky Fieldhouse turned 80 recently and his daughters Lisa and Michelle arranged a SURPRISE birthday for him at the Bassendean RSL. Lisa organised a sit-down roast lunch, ironically it was PORK and delicious too, followed by sweets and a few beers. Lisa raided Spunky’s “man-cave” while he was out and decked out the RSL with some of Spunky’s old uniforms, loads of his army memorabilia and tons of old photos in albums and also a slideshow. A great time was had by all, including: Peter and Rose Wilson, Graham Edwards, Don and Margaret Cruden, Patricia Bell, Bob Wall, Peter Weymouth, Ian McNee, John Davies, Glenn Cox and family, Steve Chamarette, Bob and Barbara Curry, Geoff Murray, Joe Van Der Wal and of course Lisa and Michelle.

Well done Lisa and Michelle, you did a great job



Spunky looks happy



Figure 3A herd of "Pigs"



Figure 4 Lisa with Spunky's birthday cake



Figure 5 Lisa, Spunky and Michelle

JOCK HENDERSON'S 86TH BIRTHDAY

Don rang Jock recently for his 86th Birthday on behalf of the association and reported that Jock is doing well and has finally got an email address.

7RAR FLAGS in VARIOUS LOCATIONS AROUND THE WORLD



Don's grandson Ryan with 7RAR Flag at Kentucky Military Show

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
 6 Sun Court
 Hillarys WA 6025



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

Vale Barry Marsh (9/6/45-27/12/19)

Barry's funeral was held in Highton on 6th January, 2020 and the following tribute was received:-

"The funeral today had about 200 people with about 50 vets and the rest from community of Anglesea and surrounds, with the same numbers laying a poppy.

Barry was a very popular guy in 7RAR and post VN was platoon contact and with his wife was organiser of platoon functions. In his community he was a busy man involved with the RSL, golf club and particularly committed to the Anglesea Surf Lifesaving Club. His service there for many years was recognised when a surf lifeboat was named after him.

A National Service warrior who was a good, helpful and much admired leader in his community.

Farewell Barry Marsh, we salute you.

Graeme Chapman"

(Barry was in D/12, 1st Tour).

Vale LTCOL Alistair Robb (28/2/1937-24/1/2020)

Alistair passed away peacefully at home in Leopold, Vic on 24th January. Born in Paisley, Scotland he commenced his service with the British Army, serving with 1 Battalion, The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). He commenced his with the Australian Army in 1963, initially with

1RAR and then Pacific Islands Regiment 1964 to 1967. He served in SVN from 1970-71 with 7RAR and Headquarters 1ATF.. Alistair held numerous postings as a staff officer from 1971 to 1987.

After service of some 25 years, Alistair retired from the Army and after a short stint at retirement decided to join Carry On (Victoria). Alistair joined in 1992 and retired from the board of Carry On in 2014 to let a younger generation take the lead. Alistair enjoyed his time with Carry On immensely which gave him an insight into the problems that others were experiencing and an opportunity to treat himself by serving others across the ESO and veteran community In Victoria. He is survived by Mina Robb and his children Stuart and Tamara.

(Notes supplied by Stuart Robb)

Another good soldier gone to rest..

AGM 12 February 2019

We had a number of apologies but we were pleased to have Tony Matthews and his four-footed friend attend. Graeme Chapman took the chair for the elections and the following positions were established:-

President	Bill Anderson
Vice Pres.	Allen McGuinness (and Jan to keep him honest)
Treasurer	Alan (Roo) Dowley
Secretary	Ian Dunn (and not allowed to stand down)
Asst. Sec.	David Wain

Graeme, as interim Chairman, thanked all for accepting their nominations.

President's Report

As usual your very small Committee has been able to co-ordinate the major 7RAR activities for 2019. This is made possible by the time and efforts contributed by especially Ian Dunn as Secretary and Roo Dowley as Treasurer. Allan and Jan McGuinness also provide their long distance support from Kingston SE to keep the membership advised through Mailchimp as well as words of wisdom when necessary. Unfortunately President Rob (and Karen) Arnott resigned from the Committee in November but I would like to acknowledge the time and input they put in throughout 2019 and in previous years.

We must acknowledge too the passing of Thomas Marlo Bourke on 11 November 2019. Tom was an active and loyal member of the VicPigs Committee for as long as anyone can remember, having served Australia well as an exceptional soldier both before and after the loss of his legs during his second tour of Vietnam. We are privileged to have served with Tom in the battalion and on the VicPigs Committee. He is sadly missed.

We had some difficulties finding a new meeting place due to East Malvern RSL's reduced trading days and that search will have to continue for the 2020 Committee.

In the meantime we would like to thank the Toorak Services Club for allowing us to hold our AGM on their premises and Peter Stokes for making this possible.

Originally we had scheduled the AGM for November 2019 but we considered that Tom Bourke's Memorial Service in late November was more important because of the arrangements that had to be made in conjunction with his family and his many friends and family.

As there was then not enough time to provide timely advice of the revised AGM date it was decided to make February as the new date with advice being sent out via Mailchimp in early February. Advice of the date, but not the venue was also forewarned in the 2019/3 National Newsletter.

The two major activities coordinated by the Committee were well attended. Anzac Day had about 60 marchers – not bad considering the closeness of Easter. The Post-March Reunion at Bell's Hotel was also well attended by family and friends (and 106 Fd Bty) with over 100 attending. The Suoi Chau Pha Ceremony, which also features all the other 7's, was the usual short but simple service in the Sanctuary with about 40 veterans and friends. Thirty of us went back to Bell's for a pleasant lunch.

Vietnam Veterans Day was held in fine but very windy weather and according to the Vietnam Veterans Association will continue to be held in future years although perhaps in a quieter role given the aging VV population. In view of some comments received in 2019 it will be recommended to the new Committee that the gonfalon be utilised for 2020 on the grounds that many veterans choose to parade behind their own VV Sub-Branch

and the gonfalon only needs one 7RAR handler.

Finally I would like to say that I have been delighted to be part of the 2019 Committee along with some very good friends. I wish the new Committee all the very best for 2020. It would be marvellous if we could have some new members join us – especially any younger veterans with their fresher ideas.

Bill Anderson

John O'Connor Award, St Bernard's College (February 8, 2020)



LtoR: Bill Anderson, Johnno Johnson, Maureen Kavanagh, Terry O'Connor, Nathan Borg, Ron Ring

This award is named in honour of the only St Bernard's 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 was Nathan Borg. He gained this award due to his consistent, team first approach to the school community. As a member of Debating Teams and the Cricket squad, and later as an organiser of multiple Social Justice activities, Nathan's involvement was an strong example of St Bernards' approach to life and to the broader community.

Anzac Day 2020

As we all know now, Anzac Day will be far different from previous years. Even the various Dawn Services will be held in a much reduced format. I've heard that some streaming ceremonies will be made available and you should be able to find that information locally. The other way we can be involved in Anzac Day is the 'Stand To' - at the appropriate hour stand at your gate and remember fallen comrades.. I intend reading our Roll of Honour at 14.00 EDT and I invite you to think about them at that time.

Bell's Hotel

Prior to the shut down of Anzac Day and later pubs, clubs etc the administration at Bell's had started proceedings to apply for an early opening extension to their licencing hours. They have advised that they will do the same for 2021 so please

take this as a (very) early warning order.

Corona Virus

Many Americans believe that the Virus was caused by the beer - maybe they should just suck a lemon.

Parting Shot

"Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world

A Veteran doesn't have that problem"

Ronald Reagan

Bill Anderson

0419-877-463

lastwill@hotkey.net.au

A grassroots campaign for people to commemorate Anzac Day by standing in their driveways at dawn has been endorsed by every state and territory RSL branch.

John Kidman

Australian Associated Press APRIL 1, 2020 4:45PM

With Anzac Day's once indestructable traditions cruelled by forced isolation, Australians will instead walk to the ends of their driveways on April 25 and light up the dawn.



RSL branches in every state have unanimously endorsed the gesture, with families across the nation expected to stand at their gates, on balconies or verandahs at 6am and hold a candle to fallen heroes.

Since regular public marches and services are cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis, radio networks are signing on to livestream services people can tune in to outside on phones and tablets.

Musicians everywhere are being called on to take to their front yards to play the Last Post and Rouse or Reveille for neighbours. Residents are being urged to dress windows and mailboxes with poppies and kids to make bright red "wreaths" from painted egg cartons to hang on doors.

What began as a grassroots idea to mark Australia's great day of remembrance has grown into a national campaign.

"We get thousands and thousands of people to dawn services in a normal year and a very great proportion of those are from the general public," RSL Australia general manager Kim Henshaw told AAP on Wednesday.

"So this gives them a way that they can have their own private commemoration. We see it as very positive indeed."

He said it was decided at a national hook-up on Monday to tag the initiative Light Up The Dawn.

In Brisbane, school teacher Alastair Tomkins has launched Music for

Mateship in a bid to "bring our community together one street at a time by playing the Last Post, observing a minute's silence and playing Rouse". Anyone interested should download the music sheets, start practising and notify their neighbourhood via a letterbox drop, he says.

ABC Local Radio and some commercial networks have agreed to broadcast services from 6am.

West of the NSW Blue Mountains, at Bathurst, local stations 2BS and B-Rock are inviting residents to hold a candle in their driveways during a seven-minute broadcast

Community station 2MCE at the town's Charles Sturt University campus will stream the service to 100 other stations across the country.

At Scone in the state's Hunter Valley, locals are being encouraged not to tie a yellow ribbon around the old oak tree but a purple one traditionally used in Anzac garlands on their fences and railings.

On Facebook and Twitter, dozens of community support groups and pages have asked tens of thousands of followers to register for "letterbox events".

Credit for the idea is being directed at Melbourne man Justin Wilbur, the son of a Vietnam veteran who says, "nothing is going to stop us from remembering" our Diggers.



Some History courtesy Karl Metcalf. Two pages naming Unit Key Personnel in 1969 and 1970.

<u>UNIT KEY PERSONNEL 9 OCT 69</u>				<u>N1</u>
Commanding Officer	Lt Col	R.A.	GREY	
Second in Command	Maj	N.R.	SMETHURST	
Operations Officer	Maj	F.K.	COLE	
Adjutant	Capt	A.I.J.M.	MATTAY	
Intelligence Officer	Lt	M.P.J.	O'BRIEN	
Assistant Adjutant	2Lt	I.	PAUZA	
RSM	WO1	R.A.	BANDY	
Chief Clerk	SSgt	A.E.	McGUINNESS	
OC A Coy	Maj	C.P.	THOMSON	
2IC	Capt	T.W.	HOWARD	
Pl Comds	2Lt	C.	JOHNSON	
"	2Lt	I.D.	McNEE	
"	2Lt	I.M.	DUNN	
CSM	WO2	J.	HUSBAND	
OC B Coy	Maj	G.P.	WARLAND	
2IC	Lt	O.N.	CAIRNS	
Pl Comds				
"	2Lt	K.	METCALF	
"	2Lt	P.J.	WINTER	
CSM	WO2	A.B.	KEECH	
OC C Coy	Maj	G.K.	SKARDON	
2IC	Capt	J.P.	PRESS	
Pl Comds	Lt	M.M.	HUGHES	
"	2Lt	G.	LINDSAY	
"	Lt	R.C.	POTHOP	
CSM	WO2	J.	SEXTON	
OC D Coy	Maj	A.M.	ROBB	
2IC	Capt	J.	SYKES	
Pl Comds	2Lt	J.J.	HEYDON	
"	2Lt	D.R.	CHITTY	
"	2Lt	J.D.	BURROWS	
CSM	WO2	R.J.	PARLEY	
OC Sp Coy	Capt	A.P.	THOMPSON, MBE	
OC Mor Pl	Capt	B.S.	HICKS	
2IC	2Lt	G.R.	WENHLOWSKI	
Anti Tank Pl	2Lt	D.G.	TYSON	
Sig Pl	Capt	K.R.E.	RYAN	
CSM	WO2	R.F.	SIGG	
OC Admin Coy	Maj	R.A.	O'BRIEN	
Quartermaster	Capt	C.J.	NORD	
Assistant Quartermaster	2Lt	S.G.	CHAMARETTE	
Regimental Medical Officer	Capt	R.K.	PORTER	
CSM <i>Coms</i>	WO2	D.	WHITE	
Caterer	WO2	G.H.	GRANT	

7th BATTALION OFFICERS

APPENDIX C TO
RS 15-1-1
DATED 21 JAN 70

Commanding Officer	:	Lt Col	Ron	Grey
Second-in-Command	:	Maj	Neville	Easthurst
Operations Officer	:	Maj	Kevin	Cole
Adjutant	:	Capt	Andy	Mattay
Intelligence Officer	:	Lt	Mick	O'Brien
Assistant Adjutant	:	2Lt	Gus	Fraser
OC A Coy	:	Maj	Chris	Thomson
2IC A Coy	:	Capt	Terry	Howard
Pl Comds 1 PL	:	2Lt	Chris	Johnson
2 PL	:	2Lt	Ian	Dunn
3 PL	:	2Lt	Ian	McNee
OC B Coy	:	Maj	Grog	Warland
2IC B Coy	:	Lt	Owen	Calma
Pl Comds 4 PL	:	2Lt	Karl	Metcalf
5 PL	:	Lt	Doug	Gibbons
6 PL	:	2Lt	Peter	Winter
OC C Coy	:	Maj	Geoff	Skardon
2IC C Coy	:	Capt	John	Press
Pl Comds 7 PL	:	Lt	Mick	Hughes
8 PL	:	2Lt	Greg	Lindsay
9 PL	:	Lt	Bob	Pothof
OC D Coy	:	Maj	Alistair	Robb
2IC D Coy	:	Capt	John	Sykes
Pl Comds 10 PL	:	2Lt	David	Chitty
11 PL	:	2Lt	John	Heydon
12 PL	:	2Lt	John	Parrows
OC SF Coy	:	Capt	Alec	Thompson, MBE
A Tk Pl Comd/Admin Officer Sp Coy	:	Lt	Greg	Brown
Mor Pl Comd	:	2Lt	George	Wenikowskyj
Signal Pl Comd	:	Capt	Kon	Ryan
OC Admin Coy	:	Maj	Bob	O'Brien
2IC Admin Coy	:	Capt	Brian	Hicks
Quartermaster	:	Capt	Cliff	Nord
Chaplain (RC)	:	Chaplain(4th Class)	Keith	Teefoy
RND	:	Capt	Bob	Porter
Assistant Quartermaster	:	2Lt	Steve	Chamarette
Transport Officer	:	2Lt	Locky	Wilson

Pigs in Paradise



I had been meaning to attend the monthly Rifleman's Lunch at Mooloolaba for years and finally made it last month. First Pig I bump into is Gen David Drabsch looking happy and fit. Ex 2IC 7RAR on the 1st tour and my boss when he commanded HQ 1 Div. He reports all well in the Drabsch household.

Turned around and was fronted by Jim Hardie looking as dapper as always.



When the COVID 19 furore dies down I might suggest we SEQld pigs gather at the Mooloolaba Rifleman's lunch - it's a great day

The lack of an ANZAC Day parade is a first for me and I figure all I can do is the old "Stand To on my Driveway" at dawn. I would prefer to think of the event as deferred rather than straight out cancelled so look for news later in the year of a "Deferred ANZAC Day gathering" maybe on Vietnam Veteran's Day or Armistice day depending on when restrictions are lowered.

The year will **not** pass without our gathering and pausing to remember and reminisce about our departed friends.

Stay safe

Kev Gillett

For all you long term married members out there – stay cool.

