



Porky Seven News



Edition 59..Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment..April 2022



From the President

As I write this article the Battalion are in the final stages of a deployment into the Northern Rivers district of NSW. Once again the ADF has been called in to assist with a domestic crisis and once again the Battalion has acquitted itself very well. Approximately 260 soldiers deployed into the flood zone helping citizens in a time of need, while another 80 have been deployed into the aged care system. On the current timeline they should be home in time for Easter and we look forward to seeing a large turnout in Adelaide on Anzac Day.

One of the more significant and sad events of recent months was the passing of one of our most well known former Commanding Officers, Major General RA Grey. There have been many things written and said about the General, and no article in this newsletter could do justice him or to his contribution to the Army and to the Australian Federal Police.

At his funeral several eminent Australian's spoke at length about the General, including our former Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove, but I would draw upon the article written by another well-known former soldier, Brigadier George Mansford who wrote:

"He was tough and demanding. Failure was not included in his dictionary. He was never forgiving in regards incidents of poor leadership, and always was his interest in the welfare of his soldiers, as well as an ability to recognise individual weaknesses to be rectified and strengths to be exploited. Caesar never asked a soldier to do what he as a leader had not already done, and quite often led the way with soldiers who were yet to meet their first challenge.

He administered military justice with the wisdom and force of Solomon and more often than not it was severe. Always was his objective to achieve a very high standards of battle discipline, be it peace or war, and he did. He was very much admired by his troops; however, as is the way when enduring physical and mental challenges in a harsh and unforgiving environment, there were a few who had different views. Their service was brief.

From a young Lieutenant in Korea commanding an infantry platoon, then later as Chief Instructor of the Battle Wing at Canungra preparing troops for operations in Vietnam,



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followed by commanding an infantry battalion in Vietnam and ultimately as a General in charge of Australia's Field Force. In all commands, he left huge footprints for all who would follow. A further challenge confronted him when the government of the day selected him to command Australia's Federal Police where yet again he was held in high regard.

So many soldiers who served under him, no matter when or where, still remember him with much admiration and respect. Perhaps such reflection from far distant years is the most powerful accolade that any group of veterans could bestow".

My own interactions with him were limited; numerous postings and the General's declining health meant our paths did not cross routinely but the enduring influence he had was in no doubt to me or any of the COs who benefited from his counsel. My enduring memory was of a conversation immediately prior to assuming command of the Battalion when he offered to me that "if I was in doubt about the qualities of an officer of any rank that I should err on the side of the soldiers". It was advice offered very directly and was offered with the deepest care for the welfare of the troops.

In addition to the eulogies offered by eminent Australians and former officers, key leaders from the Australian Federal Police spoke of his contribution to the AFP in the early years and in particular of his work in forging links with international partners such as the FBI and policing and intelligence agencies in the UK, Europe and regionally, links which are essential in the globalised world our law enforcement agencies are required to operate in.

The funeral was attended by numerous members of the Association and although we were masked-up and difficult to identify the maroon 7 RAR Association ties were very prominent and it was very pleasing to see numerous ex-Association presidents and four of the most recent Battalion COs in attendance.

As mentioned in our most recent newsletter, the Battalion intends to march as a formed group this coming Anzac Day in Adelaide (pending their return from the flood grounds!) so we look forward to seeing plenty of photos of that and we look forward to hearing the stories about the gathering being planned the men of the South Australian Branch.

Mick Garraway

President





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7RAR ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

PATRONS

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROLAND SPACKMAN

(CO 7RAR)

PRESIDENT

BRIGADIER MICK GARRAWAY, AM

VICE PRESIDENT

BRIGADIER SHANE GABRIEL, DSC (Retd)

HISTORIAN

MAJOR GENERAL MIKE O'BRIEN, CSC (Retd)

SECRETARY/WEBMASTER

MR KEVIN GILLETT

TREASURER

MR BERNIE COX

EXECUTIVE OFFICER/EDITOR

MR TONY KEECH, OAM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MR BRICE STOKES

MR JOHN LAWSON



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CALENDAR APRIL TO AUGUST 2022

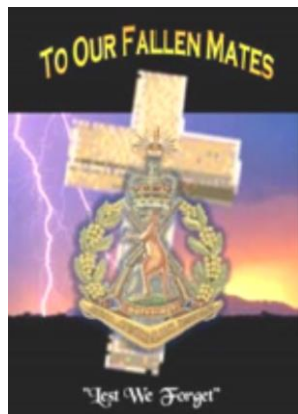
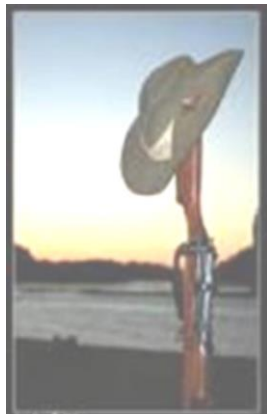
- 25 Apr ANZAC Day all States.
- 06 Aug 55th Anniversary of the Battle of Suoi Chau Pha.
- 11 Aug Cut-off date for articles for 2/2022 Seven News.
- 18 Aug 56th Anniversary Battle of Long Tan/Vietnam Vet Day.
- 20 Aug Post 2/2022 Seven News.



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"Rest ye oh Warrior, You will battle no more,
No longer to live the horrors of war,
Your duty was done with honour 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"

61766 **David William Kibbey**, AM, OC C9 2nd tour, died 24 December 2021.

3789969 **Carl Thomas Mc Namara**, 1st tour, died 25 December 2021.

57011 **Ronald Alwyn Grey**, AO, DSO, CO 2nd tour, died 20 January 2022.

Margaret Cruden, wife of Don Cruden, 1st tour, died 20 January 2022.

37897 **John Raymond Howard**, D11 1st tour, died 3 March 2022.

2783227 **Daryl Wayne Kennedy**, B4 1st tour, died 5 April 2022

213865 **Roy Savage**, OAM, MM, 7/9 both tours, died 7 April 2022.



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From the: EDITOR'S DESK

NOTICE

Hi Tony, my Husband Ronald Robinson is a Vietnam veteran and has asked me to contact you. The following message is from him.

My name is Ron Robinson. I am an ex Corporal 2RAR Vietnam 67-68. Some time ago I saw a photo in a copy of "A Duty Done" of a Cpl Peter Hope 7 RAR. Peter and I served together in 4RAR Malaya Borneo and I would like to get in touch with him. Could you please help me with an address and/or a phone number?

Regards Ron Robinson.

If anyone has any knowledge where Peter Hope is could you please contact me with that information?

Hi all, let me say this, as the time passes very quickly as we all get older please keep in touch with all your mates.

As the State restrictions linked to this Pandemic are eased, it looks like ANZAC DAY activities will be back on in most States so please where possible attend the activities at your local area and catch up with mates you probably have not seen for a couple of years,



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ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FINANCIAL STATUS

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE, I AM CURRENTLY DOING AN AUDIT AS TO THE CURRENCY OF ALL MEMBERS FINANCIAL STATUS. I SUGGEST ALL MEMBERS CHECK YOUR STATUS AND IF YOU ARE IN ARREARS IF YOU WISH TO REMAIN A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION THEN PLEASE DO SO BEFORE THE NEXT SEVEN- NEWS IN AUGUST.

ON CHECKING THE MEMBERSHIP. I FIND THOSE MEMBERS WHO ARE UNFINANCIAL IN THE PERIODS 2014-2015-2016 and 2017, IF NOT RENEWED BY THE AUGUST EDITION OF THE SEVEN NEWS THEY WILL BE DELETED FROM MY MEMBERSHIP DATABASE AND OBVIOUSLY YOU WILL NOT GET THE SEVEN NEWS AFTER THAT DATE. IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF YOUR FINANCIAL STATUS PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT ME EITHER VIA MY EMAIL ADDRESS; porky_seven@bigpond.com OR CALL ME ON 0418 624 211.

MEMBERS UNFINANCIAL IN THE PERIODS 2018-2019-2020-2021 WILL BE GIVEN UNTIL AFTER THE AUGUST SEVEN NEWS TO RENEW SO IF THESE DATES ARE IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP STATUS PLEASE CHECK OUT WHETHER YOU WILL RENEW OR BE DELETED AS MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION. ONCE AGAIN IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF YOUR FINANCIAL STATUS ON THESE DATES PLEASE CONTACT ME VIA THE MEANS SHOWN ABOVE.

OK Members, the above notes is a reminder to check your current membership financial status, if you are going to renew then do it progressively between now and the advised dates above.

As we all get older please enjoy reactive Honoring of ANZAC Day in most States so get there and catch up with your mates.

OINK OINK

Tony Keech





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An update from the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment



CO and RSM, 7 RAR on OP FLOOD ASSIST

After a welcome break to rest and refit over the Christmas period, 7 RAR returned to Horseshoe Lines (HSL) in 2022 and commenced a high tempo training schedule. These activities are designed to deliver realistic, challenging and safe training from individual soldier skills up to Battalion level exercises.

However, aid to the civil community tasks took priority, with the Battalion deploying to support Operation FLOOD ASSIST in Northern New South Wales and Operation AGED CARE ASSIST in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.

The CO and RSM are currently deployed as part of the Joint Task Group (JTG) HQ Forward, co-ordinating the efforts on Operation FLOOD ASSIST for Northern New South Wales. The CO even took time out to chat with Channel 9's, The Today Show on the plight of Lismore and its residents.

Northern New South Wales experienced another significant weather event on the 30th March which caused additional flooding in and around the township of Lismore. However, the JTG and the Battalion were well positioned and poised to respond to the needs of the community.



Willie and Elizabeth in their new home

The Battalion briefly paused and welcomed our mascots in early March. Willie and Elizabeth completed their march-in and have settled in their new home exceptionally well. The Battalion is also very privileged to be able to open the doors to HSL for the 51st Anniversary of the Second Tour of Vietnam Reunion on the 21st and 22nd of April. The CO and the RSM are looking forward to hosting and extend the

invitation to join our ANZAC Day Dawn Service.



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K1 – Alpha Company



K1 soldiers with 7 RAR veteran. Mr Bruce Ravenscroft

Coming out of the stand down period saw Alpha Company (A Coy) deployed to Northern New South Wales to provide support and assistance to the flood affected communities of Woodburn and Lismore.

While in Woodburn, Alpha Coy soldiers were able to provide assistance to 7 RAR veteran, Mr Bruce Ravenscroft. Not only did Bruce get the much needed help to begin the long clean-up, the soldiers from Alpha hosted him at the local RSL for dinner and conversation.

During his tour of Vietnam, Mr

Ravenscroft kept a detailed diary of his time in theatre, which he has since published in a book called “Contact-Wait out, A Vietnam Diary”.



K1 soldiers with Emergency Services, Navy and local residents

The JTG has Alpha Coy working alongside members of the affected communities in Woodburn and Evans Head, as well as NSW Emergency Services and Navy personnel.

Again, on the 30th March, the area was impacted by high winds, thunder storms and vast amounts of rain. This has seen K1 tasked as the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) element co-located with the SES to perform any tasks up to, and including, evacuations.



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The JTG responding to the flood affected community of Lismore



K2 – Bravo Company

After two short weeks of march-in and induction training at the beginning of the year, the majority of K2 (B Coy) was quickly deployed on Operation AGED CARE ASSIST in SA under JTF629. This operation has seen soldiers of K2 assisting clinical staff at residential aged care facilities around Adelaide, and regional SA. Though not the primary job of a rifleman,



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the soldiers were eager to help where they could, and assisted by providing companionship for elderly residents, delivery of food, and general cleaning duties. While this may seem like a small effort, the feedback that K29 has received from aged care facilities has been overwhelmingly positive.



However, this doesn't mean that K2 has not been focusing on its primary role. Where operational tempo allows, platoons from K2 have been conducting foundation warfighting training at both Keswick and Edinburgh Barracks. Training has consisted of urban warfighting, battlefield first aid, all arms call for fire, and 9mm pistol ranges. K2 was also able to conduct

battle PT at Largs Beach on the 24th of March, with a gruelling session designed to develop resilience and esprit de corps within the Coy. With Operation AGED CARE ASSIST winding down, K2 is now casting its eyes forward to conduct Platoon and Company level mechanised training in the coming months.

K3 – Charlie Company

The majority of Charlie Company (C Coy) has been back at the Battalion focusing on foundation skills. The Company conducted a series of qualifications and live fire training.

The qualifications included pistol and holster training and .50 calibre machine gun familiarisation.

The live fire range consisted of Rifle Practice 3A, where the soldiers practiced combat behaviours and weapon stoppage drills, building up to pairs and fire team live fire dismounted assaults.

K3 managed to conduct the live fire training in preparation for the year's activities, before being recalled from field in support of Domestic Operations.

K31 has members deployed to aged care facilities in Melbourne, K32, and K33 are reinforcing the Battalion's efforts on Operation FLOOD ASSIST centred on Lismore in Northern New South Wales.



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K5 – Admin Company

Quarter one of 2022 has been quite the whirlwind. A changing of the guard, so to speak, with the Regimental Quartermaster (RQ) and Technical Quartermaster (TQ) changing out and hand overs completed, our focus shifted to maintenance and training.

The COVID-19 pandemic has become a factor over the last two calendar years, and this year the concern still lingers. Instead of collective lockdowns we have shifted to individuals and their families quarantining at home, whilst still maintaining our support to our dependencies and the domestic operations, Aged Care Assist and Flood Assist. We have been fortunate to promote one of our own, our mascot handler, Lance

Corporal Maddison Parrello.

As mentioned, Logistics Platoon has stood up support to Operation AGED CARE ASSIST and FLOOD ASSIST with elements deploying to NSW. This has seen those left behind pick up the extra workload with the ever increasing fleet and governance requirements that exist within the organisation.

That being said it hasn't been all work and no play. For those who remained behind, they had the opportunity to conduct the .50 Cal Machine Gun Course, where, in due time, they will prove their training on both a live fire range and during training exercises as part either an A1 or A2 Echelon.

As we move into Quarter two, we look forward to welcoming the remainder of the Coy home from Operation FLOOD ASSIST and preparing for a revamped training program for 2022.



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Members of K6 enjoy a few jungle tips from 7 RAR veteran, Mr John RemyNSE

K6 – Support Company

Support Company (Spt Coy) was also called on to provide support to Operation FLOOD ASSIST. Recalled from training out field to deploy, Spt Coy moved to Coffs Harbour and then to Lismore. While tasked to assist the flood affected community with the process of recovery, the Coy reconnected with another 7 RAR veteran, Mr John RemyNSE. John provided some sound advice on a long and successful career to the young soldiers whilst

working alongside the group.



1Results of the second weather event in 5 weeks

Spt Coy continues to provide assistance to the flood affected residents of Lismore while the community starts down the long road of recovery. Currently Spt Coy is staged out of the township of Casino and delivering much needed support to West Lismore.

The Battalion continues to support communities in need on domestic operations, is excited to host the 7 RAR Association 51st Reunion, while refining our plan to achieve our mission in 2022.

Duty First.



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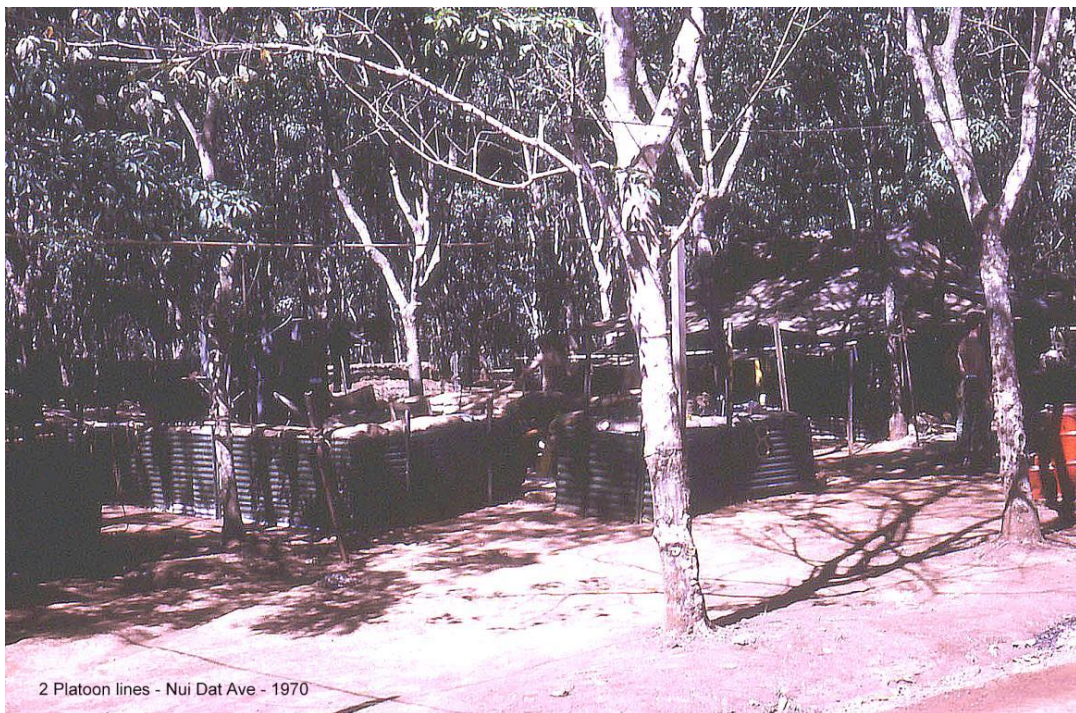


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Luscombe Field, Nui Dat, April 67, 1st Tour. Photo Bruce Forster.

A Rifle Company from 7RAR being deployed by an airmobile Helicopter Company for operations in SVN 1970



2 Platoon lines - Nui Dat Ave - 1970

2PI, A Coy lines Nui Dat 1970





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THE BEST FROM THE WEST

From all PIGS in the WEST, it looks like we'll finally get an Anzac Day parade this year so to all the PIGS everywhere else, have a wonderful Anzac Day and hopefully we can all get back to some sort of normality after a very turbulent 2020 and 2021.

BUSHFIRES NEAR PERTH - UPDATE (By Dave Ingles)

After the devastating bushfires from last January/February which caused widespread destruction of homes and farm properties, including our member Wally Kleszcz, I can now report that Wally has been able to rebuild his house and shed. He moved in to the new house on 22nd December 2021, which is not yet finished but at least he's back at home.



Wal's house



Wal's shed



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CONGRATULATIONS BETTY WEST

It must run in the West family, as following on from Allan's recent community awards, his wife Betty has been awarded The City of Rockingham "Senior Community Citizen of the Year Award". Well done Betty and thoroughly deserved.



Betty with the City of Rockingham Mayor Deb Hamblin



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VALE MARGARET CRUDEN 28th Oct. 1939 – 20th Jan. 2022



2 Margaret and Don with daughters Tania, Wendy and Debra

Don Cruden's much loved wife Margaret passed away on 20th Jan. this year and her funeral was held on 9th Feb. 2022. It was a wonderful service before a huge crowd, including a large contingent of "PIGS", too many to mention, with all speakers mentioning her incredible devotion and support as she **and** Don endured many postings and separations during Don's long military career. The eulogies given by their three daughters Tania, Wendy and Debra and by granddaughter Amy were

all very moving and a wonderful farewell to a lovely lady.



Margaret Cruden



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DON'S "LAST" FLAGS FOR SALE

Unlike John Farnham's "LAST TOUR", this is definitely Don's LAST SALE of 7RAR flags. He has 3 @ \$70 and 1 @ \$50, including postage to anywhere. Contact Don Cruden on 08 9374 0014 after 1800 hrs.



\$70 Flags like this, \$50 Flag the same but without

"At the going down of the Sun.....etc"



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R.I.P. DARYL KENNEDY 1ST TOUR

Daryl Kennedy, 1st Tour, after a short stay of palliative care at home, has passed away 5th April 2022. Funeral details will be forwarded to members when known. Don Cruden has been liaising with Daryl's widow Kay and will keep members informed,

SICK PARADE

John Hart's prostate problems have returned and he's not travelling too well.

Jim Wilson has had a hip replacement, with the other one likely for later in the year and is going well.

ANZAC DAY 2022

Well, it looks like we'll have an Anzac Day march in Perth, the first one for a while. After the march, we'll meet at BS & Co, 185 St Georges Tce, Perth for a few drinks etc etc. I'm assured there will be light lunches, burgers etc available and drinks at pub prices. No details as yet as to form-up point, but assume similar to the last time we marched, look for the banner in St Georges Tce near William St from 0930 onwards.

TRAVELLING

Heard that Peter and Sandra Vlachou, Gordon and Diane Dickson and Gary Mildwaters (14th Intake mate) have recently been caravanning in Esperance, hope we get some pictures and gossip for the next newsletter.



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NEWS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA

G'day again from SA ... well we ended 2021 with our December lunch which was well attended by our own members, and we had the pleasure of the company of the 7RAR C.O. LtCol Roland Spackman and RSM WO1 Johnny Craig. As you can see from the following images it was a convivial and relaxed lunch which last nearly four hours.



Left to right - Bob Whinnen (President 7RAR Veterans, Chris Ashenden (inaugural President 7RAR Assoc SA) and LtCol Roland Spackman.



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Left to

right - 7RAR RSM Johnny Craig and Geoff Chandler (Treasurer, 7RAR Vets SA)



Kerry Eichner and Tony Carr

During the lunch we discussed, with the Colonel and RSM, our plans to hold the delayed 2020 2nd tour reunion just prior to Anzac Day in 2022. They liked the plan and so prior to the 25th of December 2021 information was sent out to



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over 750 past serving Vietnam 7RAR soldiers advising them of the event with a request for them to pre-register their intention to attend. Chris Ashenden volunteered to email the 1st Tour guys, 2nd Tour emailing was myself and the Battalion took on the task of contacting the post-Vietnam soldiers who had moved on from Seven.

Christmas over and the New Year started it was time for our January lunch at Benjamin's on Franklin. Normally our January lunch has a low attendance but not this time as we had the usual 'boys' turn up. Our February lunch was even better with six 7RAR Junior NCO's joining us and as per images below they mixed well with us oldies. (sigh ... oh to be that trim and fit again!!)





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Front row l-r

'Doc' Russell, Adrian Taylor, Keith Molyneux, CPL Tom Grant, Lindsay Kealy, Rachel Hopkins.

Back row l-r

CPL Joshua Long, Chris Ashenden, CPL Charlie Morris, CPL William McMahon-Clarke, Bob Whitford, Bob Lloyd, CPL Patrick Mayfield, CPL Daniel Lane.

The Corporals are members in Support Company 7RAR.



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I am told that most of 7RAR including the CO and RSM are in NSW assisting with the flooding clean-up operations, however all is still on track for our Reunion visit to the Battalion on the 21st and 22nd of April. We had a lot of 'dead' email addresses that we emailed so, if you are reading this and decide that you also want to attend the reunion then send me an email and include your mob phone number at doc@antmail.com.au include your mob phone number and I'll get you sorted. Remember, "better late than never".

Our prayers and best thoughts go to ALL in QLD, NSW and now Gippsland who have been affected in any way due to the catastrophic flooding.

'Doc'

Veterans Assisting with New South Wales Flood Recovery

I spent a week in March deployed with Disaster Relief Australia, an Organisation formed by Veterans and First Responders as well as other Volunteers to assist in Recovery from Natural Disasters.

We were based at Coraki, the epicentre of the New South Wales North Coast Floods, and assisted in a number of tasks including clearing damaged houses, cleaning plant and equipment and restoring a playground in a Community Child Care Centre that was destroyed by the flood waters.

One of our Chaplains on Operation Kelliher in Coraki, Ken Schmidt, who was the Chief Chaplain on this Wave of the Operation but he was also Chaplain for 7RAR in 2015 and 2016 including a Tour of Duty to Iraq.

He is a member of the Seventh Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Association as well as participating in all Church Services and the Plaque Dedication at the Torrens Parade Ground at our 2015 Reunion in Adelaide.



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He is a member of the Seventh Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Association as well as participating in all Church Services and the Plaque Dedication at the Torrens Parade Ground at our 2015 Reunion in Adelaide.

Former 7RAR Commanding Officer, David McCammon, also credits Ken with restoring the Rose Garden outside BHQ at Horseshoe Lines in Adelaide

Due to my commitment to my local State Emergency Service Unit I have to stay in Sydney for April but if DRA's involvement on the North Coast is extended I have made myself available in May. Anyone who is interested can contact Disaster Relief Australia for further information

Bernie Cox





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PEARLS FROM VICTORIA

2021 AGM

The 2021 AGM was actually held during our March 2020 meeting and it was agreed that we would retain our 2021 positions as there had been too many interruptions to our normal meeting cycle due to the interminable lockdowns that had been imposed. Those positions are listed below in the President's Report but we did declare all positions vacant but there were no other nominations all were elected again. Our numbers for this meeting were bolstered by Alan and Jan McGuiness who braved Victoria to visit us from South Australia

2021 President's Report

In the window that we had between covid and lockdowns we had an AGM which ended up with the following members (again):-

President	Bill Anderson
Vice-Presidents	Alan McGuiness (and Jan)
Secretary	Ian Dunn
Treasurer	Alan (Roo) Dowley
Asst, Secretary	David Wain

All were elected unopposed – well done all

As you would expect in Victoria it was very quiet in Victoria due to lockdowns and several activities had to be cancelled as a result but we were able to conduct one of the more important observances.

Anzac Day, despite all the confusion in the lead up, passed well despite the reduced numbers because there was some indecision where we were to form up.



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Thanks to Alan McGuiness and Ian Dunn the 7RAR banner formed a rallying points for other Pigs and we made a good strong group marching up to the Shrine.

Our post-March Reunion at Bell's Hotel was also well attended with representatives from 106 Fd Bty, 7th AIF, 2nd/7th – wonderful to see them. Families were also well represented and keeps we Veterans grounded. Our Shrine Ceremony in August was another victim of the dreaded lockdown but thanks to Dale Capron (in charge of ceremonies) we were able to view a live streaming of the 7's commemoration. The ceremony is still available in the archives.

Remembrance Day was another significant date although we don't normally observe this as a battalion, leaving this to individual members. In my case I attended the Keilor East RSL with the usual well conducted ceremony by Johnno Johnson. Our final meeting for 2021 was held in December – which was highly enjoyed by all concerned.

One of the elements that always impresses me is the friendship/respect that endures over the years. When one of our members succumbs to the passage of years their friends (if they can) will attend. Robert (Fordy) Ford died late 2021 – friends came from everywhere for the memorial service at Wahgunyah. Ian Dunn attended as Fordy was in his company. Similarly many members attended the funeral of MAJGEN R A Grey (CO 2nd Tour) held in Canberra on 2nd February. The moving ceremony was live streamed – Ian Dunn attended,

Mention must also be made of the efforts that Allan and Jan have made to attend our meetings in Melbourne and for issuing our Mailchimp mailings to fellow Pigs. Moving our Meetings to Noble Park RSL has been successful and our thanks goes to staff and members for making us welcome. Finally I would like to thank the Committee for their help and friendship – we seem to



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work well together but it would always be good if we had fresh ideas in case we became stale.

Current and recent 7RAR veterans
– there's your challenge

Bill Anderson

Annual Pompey Elliott Commemoration Ceremony (23 March 2022)

Organised by Lambis Englezos and the Friends of the 15th Brigade this graveside service is held on the Anniversary of Pompey's untimely death on 23 March 1931 at Burwood General Cemetery. This year was the 91st anniversary and was well-attended by about 50 people including students from Ballarat College where he was educated. The guest speaker was to have been Ross McMullen (Pompey's biographer) but he was laid up medically so David Laird from the 7th AIF Association stepped in as substitute and outlined some of Pompey Elliott's many achievements.

7RAR was represented by Ian Dunn and Bill Anderson.





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Path of the Horse



Recently a family member was able to access the equine therapy program run by Dean Mighell. Located near Trentham, Victoria Path of the Horse is a registered charity , with all proceeds supporting their clients, horses and operations. They run sessions aimed at emergency services as well as ADF personnel and has proven to be useful to participants suffering from depression and PTSD. More information can be found on www.pathofthehorse.com.au. Funding should be available through DVA or NDIS.

Wattle Park Anzac Service 1:00pm 24 April

We have been invited to attend this annual event with our Unit Banner and as many members as possible.

The Service is a substantial event at a historically significant location. The organisers are attempting to increase the scale and spectacle of the event in order to foster greater attendance and to provide an additional occasion for descendants of the Veterans to March behind the Unit banners. It's perfect for those who cannot attend the Melbourne ANZAC Day March in the city.

So far David Laird (7th Bn AIF) has the 7th Bn, 14th Bn and 24th Bn AIF Banners, and 2/7th Bn, 2/24th Bn and 7th Bn RAR attending and is waiting on answers from several other associations.



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This is a significant ceremony held at the Wattle Park Patriotic Area in the shadow of a first-generation descendant of the Gallipoli Lone Pine. It is an area marked with plaques and information boards.

It is always well attended and features the Tramways Band, who play a recital in the park afterwards. The event also attracts a strong contingent of Local, State and Federal politicians (but we shouldn't let that put us off—we've found them to be quite harmless in the past). It is also suggested that people bring refreshments and some chairs and stay for the band!

Melbourne ANZAC Day March & Reunion (25 April)

The Order of March should be available on the RSL Victoria website after 13 April and should also be published in *Mufti* and in the Melbourne newspapers. It will specify our forming up place and our expected step off time—but it's likely that we'll again be forming up in Collins Street, between Swanston and Russell Streets, and that we'll step off before 10:00am.

The March is due to start at 9:00am.

We are just about back to normal this year with unit contingents marching behind their banners. Within the RAR contingent we'll be forming up between 6 and 8 RAR. After the March we'll head for Bells Hotel and they have advised that an early licence has been arranged so we won't have to wait until noon. They have also arranged a menu similar to last year's Reunion.

Please send this to your battalion mates, or give them a call, in the hope that

Parting Shot

Everyone has a right to be stupid, but some people abuse that privilege

Joseph Stalin

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



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Gen R. A. Grey, AO, DSO



Lieutenant Colonel Ron A. Grey took command of 7RAR on 25 November, 1968. He was educated at Perth Modern School, the educational institution of several other famous people including a former prime minister (R.L.Hawke) and a former governor general (Sir Paul Hasluck).

He graduated from the Royal Military College Duntroon in 1951. He served with 3 RAR from 1952 to 1953 as a rifle platoon commander and in the mortar platoon. He was wounded twice in Korea and then become an instructor at the 1st Commonwealth Division Battle School at Hara Mura in Japan from 1955-57.

He then served as adjutant of the 2/14th Queensland Mounted Infantry before being posted to the Royal Military College for three years. He then became an infantry officer instructor at the School of Infantry. He was posted as a company commander in 2RAR and was selected to attend the Staff College in Camberley, UK, in 1961.

After returning to Australia, he was posted to the Infantry Centre and to the Directorate of Infantry. He was then selected as the Deputy Assistant General (Operations and Maintenance) in Headquarters 17th Gurkha Division in Borneo where he was Mentioned in Despatches (MID). In his next posting in the Directorate of Military Training in Canberra he compiled two pamphlets that were to form the basis for much of the Australian minor tactics used in Vietnam: Patrolling and Tracking and Ambush and Counter Ambush. He was then appointed as the Chief Instructor of Battle Wing at the Jungle Training Centre at Canungra in 1967.

The Commanding Officer had a thorough knowledge of military history, particularly the campaigns of Wellington and the American Civil War. He had made three operational visits to Vietnam (in 1964, 1965 and 1968) seeing much of the whole country and some of Phuoc Tuy Province. He had made a detailed study of the French campaigns in Indo-China and Algeria. His



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particular enthusiasm was battle discipline, the demanding type of discipline that a soldier imposes on himself so that he does not let his mates down - exemplified by the tired sentry who would rest his chin on his bayonet.

Lieutenant Colonel Grey was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) for his service in Vietnam as Commanding Officer of 7RAR.

General Grey was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) on 26 January, 1983 for service to the Australian Army, particularly as Chief of Operations and as General Officer Commanding Field Force.

Pigs in Paradise

ANZAC Day Brisbane

Order of March

GROUP 5 - ARMY ASSOCIATIONS (FUP GEORGE STREET BETWEEN CHARLOTTE & MARGARET STREETS) - 1030hrs

We are 38th

SECTION B - 1040hrs

St Peter's Lutheran College Marching Band

36. THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION QLD

37. 6 RAR ASSOCIATION

38. 7 RAR ASSOCIATION

39. 8 RAR ASSOCIATION

40. 9 RAR ASSOCIATION

41. 2/4 RAR ASSOCIATION

RV



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After the march we will RV at the Port Office Hotel at 40 Edward Street for lunch and refreshments.

Monthly Lunches:

Monthly lunches continue in Brisbane although with floods and Covid numbers are down.



Lunch in Brisbane. L to R. Bob Crothers, Lyn and Tess, Bob Goodger, Neil Schneidewin, Mick King, Darryl Blackwell and self.

There was a better turnout at the February Lunch.

In spite of a monsoonal down pour we had a good turnout. Six Pigs from the Sunshine coast and Toowoomba were blocked by flood waters but metros guys and gals made it. Jim Husband was going to come but it all become too difficult so we hope next time will be a bit drier.



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L to R Chris Derrick, Lilloyd Venz, Sheila Venz, Trevor Skinner, Mick King, Les Brown, Helen Brown, 'Pommy' Nortcott, Maree Derrick, John Davidson and self. Chris and Sheila's daughter Allison and husband Kim dropped in later to demilitarize the event. SE Qld was being flooded but we had a great time.

RAP

Jim Husband A notice on Facebook from Scott Husband, Jim's son dated 6 April

Hi Gents,

Just a quick update on my dad [Jim Husband](#), he's currently at Eden Private Hospital in Cooroy undergoing a bit of rehab as his health has been a bit lacking lately. I'm sure he'd like a visit if anybody is up that way. Room 8!

His son Scott.

Seven in Seventy 2nd Edition Books

There are four left so jump in if you want one. Go to the website (7rar.asn.au) for details of how to order and pay.

Kev Gillett Sec/Webmaster

Brisbane