



Porky Seven News



Edition 62..Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment..April 2023

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In this first newsletter of the year I would like to welcome the new command team at 7 RAR, LTCOL Von Lambert and WO1 Al Ashman. LTCOL Lambert started his career in B Company 5/7 RAR and transferred to 7 RAR when the Battalion was re-raised in late 2006 and has served in 7 RAR. So he has served in the Battalion as a Platoon Commander, Adjutant, Company Commander, Ops Officer. Similarly the new RSM served in 5/7 RAR from the Holsworthy days through 5/7 RAR's period in Darwin, and in 7 RAR in Darwin and Adelaide at every rank from Private to Warrant Officer Class One.

Since the last newsletter we have been advised of a DVA Commemoration for the 50th anniversary of the conclusion of Australian operations in South Vietnam. The commemoration will be held on Anzac Parade at the Vietnam Memorial on Friday 18 August 2023. The event is being coordinated by the Department of Veteran's Affairs and will involve the entire ex-service community. We are not privy to the full details of the event at this time, but in the interim the XO will work with state reps to determine the numbers attending with an intent to have an informal gathering on the afternoon of the 17th in order to catch up before the commemoration. It will be a busy week in Canberra with parliament sitting, so accommodation will be a premium. Those interested in attending may wish to book accommodation soon.

Plans for the 7 RAR parade on Saturday 30 September 2023 are developing. As advised in the last newsletter, the Battalion has been awarded a campaign honour for operations in Iraq.

The campaign honour has been sewn onto the Regimental Colour in recent weeks and the parade on 30 September will provide an opportunity for a formal ceremonial event with the new campaign honour. The



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program is being refined, but it will include an opportunity for Association members to visit the Battalion on the afternoon of Friday 29 September. The visit will include a short ceremony to officially name the Battalion's military instruction block and a viewing of the historical collection. The parade will occur at the Torrens Parade Ground in North Adelaide on the Saturday morning. It is planned to commence mid morning and conclude well before midday giving all guests an opportunity to enjoy a BBQ lunch and drinks on site. We are deliberately leaving the Friday and Saturday evenings free of any formal events in order to allow mates to catch-up informally. 2023 is a year of multiple anniversaries including 50 years since to conclusion of Australian involvement in Vietnam, 15 years since the first 7 RAR Iraq tours, 15 years since the first 7 RAR led Afghanistan tour and 10 years since the second 7 RAR led Afghanistan tour.

We will post details of key timings for the weekend on the website once they are confirmed by the Battalion. The only preparation you might consider initiating now is your travel and accommodation. It will be on a long weekend in SA so early and refundable bookings for accommodation and travel would be wise. We would recommend staying in the north of the CBD or in an area close to North Adelaide in order to be close to Torrens Parade Ground.

Finally, Karl Metcalf's efforts with "*Porky's People*" a pictorial history of 7 RAR's first tour of South Vietnam have resulted in a terrific book. The association has ordered a run of 300 copies. Should further copies be required Details for purchasing the book are on the website and in this newsletter.

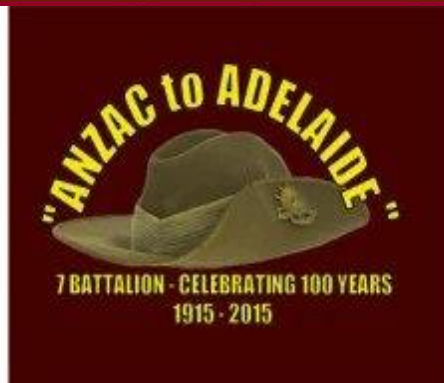
Mick Garraway
President



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- 6-14. From the Editor.
- 14-18. Pearls from Victoria.
- 18-21. The Best from The West.

CALENDAR APRIL TO AUGUST

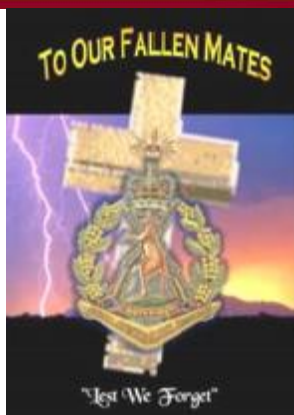
- 25 Apr 23 ANZAC DAY ALL STATES.
- 03 Aug 23 Public Media Campaign details in Editors report.
- 08 Aug 23 Cut-Off date for Aug Seven News articles.
- 18 Aug 23 50Th Anniversary End Vietnam Conflict in Canberra.



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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 you side,

**It is with deep and sincere sympathy that I report the death of former
Comrades and Friends in arms"**

**3794226 Kenneth William James, ADMIN 2nd tour, passed
away Monday 6 June 2022.**

**2783504 David Norman Howlett, A3 1st tour, passed away
Tuesday 30 August 2022.**

**38514 Robin Balfour Cathcart, C/D/SPT 1st tour, passed
away Saturday 3 September 2022.**

**235082 Ian Barry Mackay, CO 1971-1973 passed away
Sunday 4 December 2022.**



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**215001 Igors (Gus) Pauza, A/ADJT 2nd tour,, passed away
Monday 5 December 2022.**

**3410416 Raymond Keith Rosenow, ADMIN 1st tour,
passed away Saturday 10 December 2022.**

**16808 Sabatino (Sam) Giacomantonio, BHQ 1st tour,
passed away Sunday 5 February 2023.**

**1735823 Gunner Cyril Cordery, SIG C Coy FO Party,
passed away Sunday 5 February 2023.**

**3789433 Edward, (Eddie) Pilling, B5 1st tour, passed away
February 2023.**

**214185 John Stafford Vautin, MID, CSM 1972-1974, passed
away Thursday 9 February 2023.**

**3790446 Christopher Richard Mortimer 1st tour, passed
away Saturday 18 February 2023.**

**5714316 William, (Bill) Henderson, C8 1st tour, passed
away Sunday 19 February 2023.**

**3789388 Maxwell Francis Menzies, B6 1st tour, passed
away Tuesday 21 February 2023.**

**1202871 Robert David Dangaard, RECCE 2nd tour, passed
away Friday 17 March 2023.**



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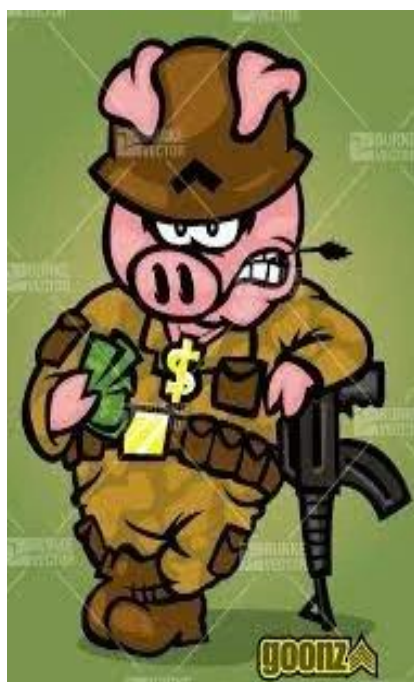


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212523 Alan Raymond (Roo) Dowley. A2 2nd tour, passed away Sunday 19 March 2023.

6708539 Gregory Francis Batchelor, D11 1st tour, passed away Thursday 23 March 2023.

3789116 George David Cossey, A21st tour, passed away Tuesday 11 April 2023.



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

All members please note, "As of now there is no requirement to renew your membership. As we all approach that time in our life we can survive financially as we are now, if decide to send us a donation please do but current members will remain on our database without having to pay membership fees.

Members, I am sure you are all now aware of the activities involving the 7RAR Association this year 2023.

VIETNAM VETERANS VIGIL (VVV)

INTRODUCTION





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3 August 2023 marks 60 years since the deployment/arrival of the Australian Army Training team (AATTV) in South Vietnam (SVN) and 50 years since the combat troops withdrew.

It is noted that the Australian Government intends to mark the occasion with a Commemorative Service, televised nationally by the ABC on the 18 August 2023 from the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial (AVFNM) in Canberra.

The majority of Vietnam Veterans, through, age and ill-health, will not be able to attend. They see this ceremony as one that is primarily VIPs from Government, Defence and (Ex Service Organisations Round Table (ESORT) members. It will not be a 'hands-on' event for the Diggers nor for all the families whose loved ones paid the supreme price in the name of 'national interest'. though a token representation of Vietnam Veterans (VV) may be present)

The VVV will provide the Vietnam Veterans and the Australian community the opportunity to participate in a meaningful way right across the nation and overseas in recognizing the national loss and paying their respects to those who were Killed in Action (KIA) and to show solidarity with their loved ones for their loss.

PURPOSE

To provide a meaningful and poignant opportunity for Vietnam Veterans and the public to visit the grave-sites/memorials of all 523 VV recognized by Department of Veterans Affairs (and named by the Australian War Memorial on their Roll of Honour) who were KIA or died soon thereafter from wounds received whilst on active service in SVN. And in conjunction with surviving family members, commemorate a life that cut short.

METHOD



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A public media campaign will be launched to invite Vietnam Veterans, the NOK/surviving family members, veterans and the general public to choose a specific service member listed within the 523 KIA and to visit their final resting place and, at 11am on the 3 August 2023, lay a flower and read a short, prepared Service of Remembrance in their memory and to pray for their loss and for those they left behind.

To achieve this:

The surviving former Committee members of the Australian Vietnam Forces Welcome Home Parade 1987/Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial Committee, will: establish a website; provide the lead and centrally coordinate the Media Releases; provide the names and cemetery locations of those who will be commemorated; provide the Service of Remembrance template; locate the relatives of those KIA; arrange local publicity; and coordinate the acceptances of those wishing to participate.

They will request the participants to send in Photographs capable of being uploaded onto the Virtual War Memorial Australia <www.vwma.org.au> website of their attendance and the paying of respects to the Fallen at every grave/memorial site.

END STATE

The grave of every VV KIA will be visited and photographed. The photographs will be downloaded to a central data base and made publicly available before the Commemorative Service in Canberra at the AVFNM on the 18 August 2023. The ABC will be invited to review the photographs and possibly incorporate some into a prelude to their national broadcast on that day.

The VVV will begin at Dawn at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial. And whilst the Service will commemorate all those who served, suffered or died, it will focus on the Memorial seats erected for the 6 MIA's, and how they were 'never forgotten' by the Vietnam Veterans and how Vietnam Veterans played a central role in 'bringing them Home'.



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2nd, we have the Celebrations for the Anniversary of the conclusion of the Vietnam Conflict to be held in Canberra over the period 17 to 19 August. The Major activity is scheduled for Friday 18 August to be held in the Area of the Australian War Memorial. As we all get older this will be a Final HooRah for all Vietnam Veterans.

We are looking at a GET TOGETHER on the Thursday 17 August. More details when we get a overall plan for the period, this will be covered by the early release of the August Seven News.

3rd, Involves a presentation of a New Battle Honor for the Battalions operations in IRAQ. The Battalion is planning a Battalion Parade to be held on Saturday 30 Septamber, once again more details will be outlined in the August Seven News, be advise that this is also the advertised as the AFL GrandFinal to be held in Victoria. Each State REP please survey those members who wish to attend the Battalions activities in SA, the planned functions are planned for the Friday the 29 and the Battalion Parade at their Barracks location on the 30th of September. State Reps please ascertain how many of your members plan to attend the activities so we can advise the Battalion how many to expect to cater for on any activities they need to plan for travel to and enter the Battalion Barracke at Edinburgh Defence complex.

FIRST TOUR BOOK- PORKY'S PEOPLE

You should all be aware that KARL Metcalf has formatted a book for the battalions 1ST Tour in Vietnam 1967-68. Currently the book is being proof read and should be ready for final print in June. This book tells the history



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of the Seventh Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (7 RAR) during its first tour in South Vietnam. The book primarily uses images to tell this story, whether they be photographs, artwork, maps, or newspaper cuttings. As the title of the book states, it is about Porky's People and the priority for selection of images has been the people who served in or supported the battalion.

The book is set out generally in chronological order so that the reader can easily follow the sequence of events. The scope of the book covers the period from the raising of the battalion through to the time it returned to Australia and the immediate aftermath.

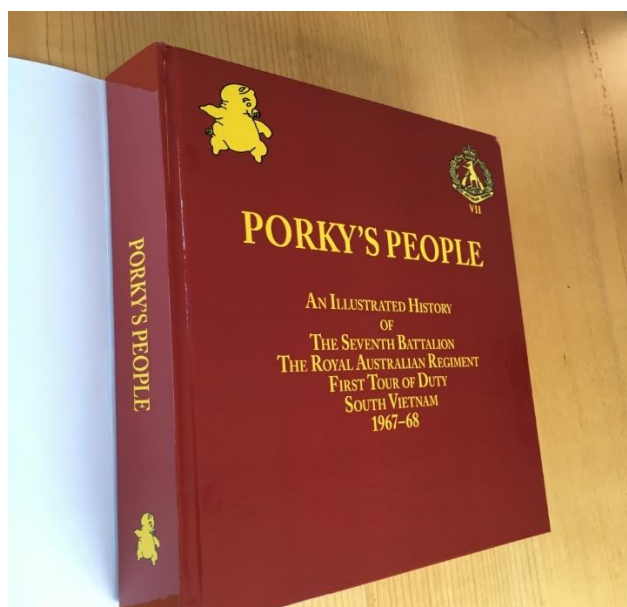
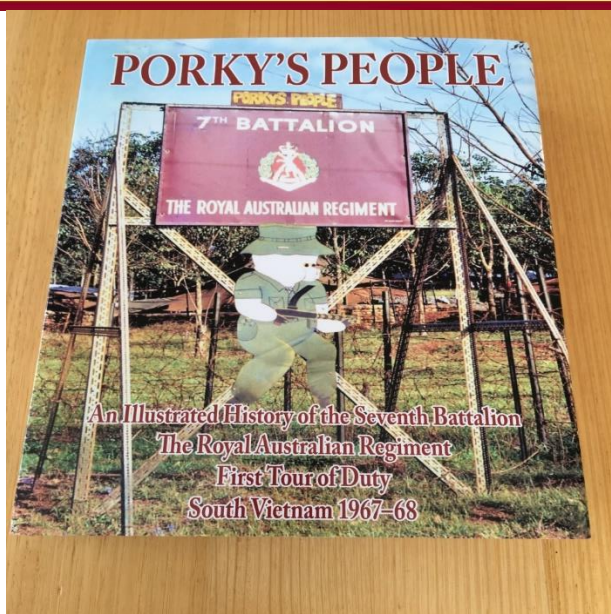
Each operation has its own chapter with an accompanying map. A short introduction to each operation is provided – sufficient for the reader to understand what the operation was about and the key events. For some operations there are a large number of photographs and these chapters are necessarily much longer than other operations that have few, if any, photographs. Newspaper articles have been selected on the basis that they directly describe 7 RAR activities or people, or they provide relevant background information.



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John Paget's blurb:

"In fulfilment of the hopes of many diggers, Karl Metcalf has produced a comprehensive record of the first tour of 7 RAR in South Vietnam. Karl's illustrated history captures the essence of that deployment through a unique composition of narratives, reports, records, maps, newspaper clippings,



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personal reflections and photos. Karl's work is a tribute to all of Porky's People but, in particular, to those of 7 RAR who gave their all in the war."

Peter Winter's blurb:

It may be 55 years after the event but, thanks to Karl Metcalf (OC 4 Platoon B Company 7 RAR- 2nd tour), our 7 RAR First Tour brother's-in-arms have now the long-awaited illustrated history of their 1967-68

Vietnam tour of duty.

"Porky's People" is 765 pages of photographs, sketches and portraits from Vietnam war artists Bruce Fletcher and Ken McFadyen, articles from Australian newspapers of the time, and comprehensive explanations of the 32 Battalion and Taskforce operations undertaken, each with maps showing details of sub-unit movements. Included also is a nominal roll of the 1251 infantrymen listed by DVA as having served with Lt. Col. Eric Smith's Battalion. This comprehensive publication is a testament to them all and to those who supported the Battalion throughout that exhausting year. Karl, you've done the 7th Battalion and the Association proud.

Blurb from Adrian Taylor.

This is a remarkably good book in both quality and content.

Over 750 full gloss pages of photos, images, text, newspaper cuttings, maps, and a detailed account of the battalion's full tour from raising the battalion to arriving back home. Each operation, accompanied by a map, is laid out in an easy-to-follow description for anyone. You can start anywhere in the book and start reading. It does not have to read from the start, it can be opened on any page. The hard cover and dust jacket are visually stunning. A must have for anyone who served, family members, historians, and future generations.

Richard Kenny's blurb for Porky's People



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Recently, I had the pleasant task of proof-reading Karl Metcalf's *Porky's People* manuscript, an historical and pictorial account of 7RAR's first tour in South Vietnam. This book follows on from Karl's excellent 2nd edition of *Seven in Seventy* and whilst in the same genre, *Porky's People* is a much more detailed account of the Battalion's 1st tour.

Unlike some recent civilian authors writing about the Vietnam War from an Australian perspective (and getting it wrong!) Karl Metcalf was a Platoon Commander during the Battalion's second tour. His experiences coupled with an enquiring mind have equipped him with the knowledge and skills to navigate the intricacies of records held by the Australian War Memorial and other sources, including input from former members of 7 RAR.

Karl has been methodical in his research and has not been content with merely cross checking information and adding footnotes. After Action Reports, NOTICAS forms, awards' recommendations and citations, newspaper reports and many other sources are reproduced in this book, together with a wide range of photographs. For example, how many members of the Battalion knew that 7 RAR soldiers were "loaned" to the US Army's 155mm self-propelled battery supporting the Battalion? Or, how much thought did we give at the time to battle casualties and their impact on people back in Australia? To grasp this side of the War, Karl has delved into the procedures and experiences of one family's loss, even re-producing the impersonal (and much dreaded) telegram delivered from the Department of Army to Next of Kin.

As a 2nd tour soldier, I knew very little about 1st tour's operations and, reading Karl's book I am left with the impression that the two tours were very different experiences. For example, the 1st tour engaged in Cordon and Search operations at Hoa Long and Binh Ba, and the reader is left with the impression that whilst these operations were deemed an important tactic by commanders, they were not popular with soldiers.



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Perhaps, Cordon and Search did win some Vietnamese "Hearts and Minds" because, on at least one occasion several Diggers found themselves sharing rice wine with a local villager in his home. Just maybe, this anecdote says more about the decency and ingenuity of Australian soldiers, than the value of these operations, *per se*.

Porky's People is the soldiers' story of 7 RAR's 1st tour of South Vietnam and it deserves to be recorded for posterity. Families will now have a much better understanding of what took place during their relatives' 1st tour of SVN. The wider Australian community, on the other hand, will read about an Infantrymen's experiences of war in South Vietnam during, we should never forget, Australia's largest deployment of ground troops on Active Service since the Second World War.

PORKY PEOPLE'S BOOK

1. Cost of each book is \$200 (\$175.00 per book plus \$25.00 packing and postage). Each book will be packed in an Australia Post parcel box. Because of the size of the book only one book can be fitted in each box. Thus, we will post out one box for each book you pay for.
2. The name and the postal address you want each book you have paid for posted to. If you buy more than one book, make sure you specify how many books are going to each person and their address that you provided. For example, you may want two books for you and, say, one for each of your three children. In this example make sure you tell us two books go to you at your address and one book goes to each of the other three people at their address.
3. Make sure you check that the addresses are correct, including the correct Postcode. From previous experience some people with Post Office Box Numbers have different Postcodes to normal street addresses in the same area.
4. The books will be collected from the printer in Adelaide on Monday 3 July 2023 and posted out that week.
5. Transfer the money for each book you wish to buy to this account:
 1. Bank: ANZ





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2. Account details:
3. BSB: 012 429 Account Number: 190140003.
4. When transferring the money into this bank account please use your 7 RAR Association Membership Number to identify your deposit. If you are not a member of the association put your name in the reference space.
6. Lastly, make sure that your contact details held by the Association are up to date with respect to your address, contact telephone number(s) and email address in case we need to contact you regarding your purchase of the book. If unsure the Association have all your details up to date please advise Tony Keech on:
7. porky_seven@bigpond.com
8. OR PHONE TONY ON HIS MOBILE 0418 624 211.

PEARLS FROM VICTORIA

March Committee Meeting

Our outposted Committee members were able to persuade Princess Cruises to call into Melbourne to join Victorian members for a convivial meal together at our regular watering hole (otherwise known as Bell's Hotel) – and we even managed to conduct our monthly meeting. It was great to catch up with Allan and Jan McGuinness all the way from Kingston SE. They have taken 'working from home' to a whole new level. Despite their distance from us their contribution is always welcome.



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LtoR: Bill Anderson, Allan McGuiness, Ian Dunn, David Wain, Pauline Wain, Jan McGuiness and Alva Anderson

Annual Pompey Elliott Commemoration Ceremony (23 March 2023)

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 92nd anniversary and was well-attended by about 50 people including students from Ballarat and Clarendon College where he was educated. The guest speaker this year was the

historian Dr Ross McMullen (Pompey's biographer) who also spoke about some of the bright officers he recruited to the 15th Brigade and were later killed in action. Ross has illustrated their stories in more detail in his latest book 'The Lost Generation' being launched at the Shrine of Remembrance on April 20.

7RAR was represented by Ian Dunn and Bill Anderson.



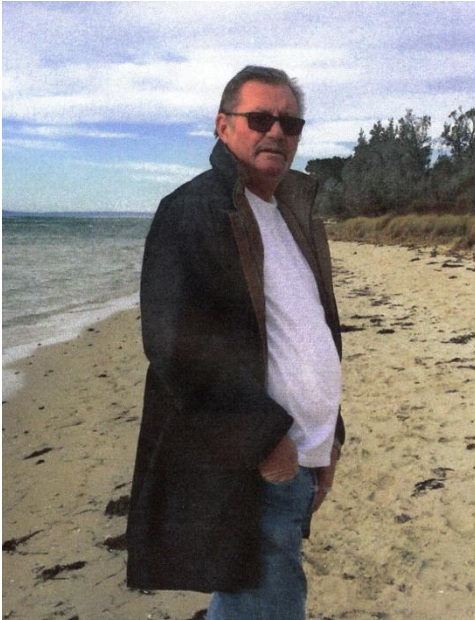


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Vale Alan (Roo) Dowley 21/12/1950 – 18/3/2023



Sadly we lost our long-time Treasurer after he lost his prolonged battle with cancer. .

His memorial service was held at Springvale Botanical Cemetery and was attended by nearly 200 mourners which reflected the breadth and respect Roo held within his circle. The service was live streamed and I believe quite a number of his army friends who couldn't attend in person took this opportunity.

During the eulogies Ian Dunn spoke of Roo's Vietnam service and told us that "For all but the last couple of weeks of his tour of Vietnam, Roo was only 19 years old. Though he was the youngest soldier in our platoon, he was a very able section commander. More recently, we were lucky to

have him as a very active member of our VicPigs committee, and as our treasurer for many years. We've lost an exceptional man and a very good mate."

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mim and all of Roo's family. An invitation has been extended to join us whenever she is able.



Some of Roo's 2 Platoon mates

*Rear L -R Dookie Brooks,
Dicko Dickson, Dan
Harrison, Ian Dunn*

*Front L – R Frank Ewing,
Woody Woodall*

Wattle Park Anzac Service
1:00pm 23 April



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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.

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. This year

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)

We'll have our banner in place by 0900, our form up time. We've been told to expect to cross the Flinders St start line at 0938. We are to form up on the East side of Swanston Street between Collins St and Flinders Lane (that's alongside the City Square). Our Order of March will be positioned after 6RAR and before 9RAR who are this year's tail-end Charlie. 8RAR will be leading the Battalions this year as they have a reunion planned and expect 130 to be marching. It would be good if we could match those figures as our normal muster,

If there any interstate visitors, or younger 7RAR veterans, please join us and let Ian Dunn or Bill Anderson know.

Bell's Hotel



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After the March we'll again be in the Main Hall at Bells Hotel, 157 Moray Street, South Melbourne—with easy access via the lift. Bill Anderson is helping the hotel to organise an early licence and has all the usual arrangements under control. After our poor attendance numbers in 2022 we were concerned that we might lose our ongoing ANZAC Day booking at Bells. We're hoping for lots more of our members at Bells this year and that our numbers will be boosted by our friends from the other 7th Battalion Associations and from 106 Field Battery. If we do lose this venue, we'll struggle to find another as convenient or as good.

7th Bns Combined Shrine Pilgrimage – 6 August 2023

Just an early warning that we will be holding our annual pilgrimage on Sunday 6 August. The short service held in the Sanctuary commemorates the contribution of the various 7 Battalions – 7AIF, 2/7th AIF, 7 Bn 39-45 and 7RAR. In the case of 7RAR, we will be remembering Suoi Chau Pha.

After the ceremony we will be heading off to Bell's to continue remembering fallen comrades or those who have subsequently passed

Vietnam Anniversary Medallion

With the announcement earlier this year of the 50th Year to the end of the Vietnam Anniversary Medallion what was not mentioned was you have to apply, it seems this will not just be sent out. This link will take you to the online DVA application.. <https://www.dva.gov.au/.../commemorative-services>

You should find the process fairly painless.

Parting Shot

When I'm wrong and she's right, I shut up. When I'm right and she's wrong,
When I'm wrong and she's right, I shut up. When I'm right and she's wrong,
I still shut up! A Happy Wife makes for a Long and Happy Life!

Bill Anderson 0419-877-463

lastwill@hotmail.net.au

THE BEST FROM THE WEST



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Hello PIGS everywhere, from all PIGS in the WEST.

"THREE LITTLE OLD PIGS"



Geoff Lawson's 75th birthday was celebrated at Mia Cucina in Hillarys recently, with family and friends. Check out the Three Little Old PGS

L to R: Charlie Matheson, Geoff Lawson, Peter Vlachou

HEALTH SCARE

Jock Henderson had a scare on his health recently but is now back on his feet, much to our delight.

A COMPANY 2ND TOUR REUNION

A reunion of A Coy 2nd Tour is planned for October 2023 and should be a great opportunity to catch up with old mates and reminisce about good



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times. The details to hand are as follows, with more details closer to the date: Date: 13th, 14th and 15th October 2023.

Location: Mittagong NSW.

Venue: RSL Mittagong.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bowral.

Contacts: Phil Clark 0413 991 686. philipclark@y7mail.com

Gordon Dickson 0418 943 729. waikikirooftiles@aapt.net.au

BIT OF NOSTALGIA

Don Cruden's son-in-law Paul sent this great photo to him as a reminder it had been two years since we all gathered in Katanning to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Noel Crouch's death in Vietnam and it's such a great photo of a bunch of PIGS, I just had to include it in the Newsletter again.



The Veterans Week in Bruce Rock is back on the calendar so please take note of the dates and place them in your calendar.



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The event used to be held predominantly for Vietnam Veterans but due to those veterans dwindling over the years and there only being a few left the Bruce Rock veterans are finding it difficult to maintain momentum in relation to organising the event.

It has now been opened up to all Veterans, Police, Fire Service and any Armed services who are still serving and who have served with the emergency services and armed forces. More details will follow.



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SAVE
The
DATE

1.11.23 - 7.11.23

**Bruce Rock Back to the Bush
Veterans Reunion**

Welcoming all Military Personnel; Past & Present, Emergency
Service Personnel and Civilians

Activities All Week

Commemorative March	Live Music	Kids Entertainment
10th Light Horse Troop	Military Museum Tour	Markets

For more information contact cdo@brucerock.wa.gov.au or 9061 1377

To Don, Spunky, Bob and all the members of the 7 RAR Association just a note to say THANK YOU for your support during our time of sadness. A special thank you BILL HENDERSON



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This is a note from Joyce Henderson following her late husband Bill's funeral *for all your assistance at Bill's funeral. We couldn't have made his farewell so*

1st TOUR BOOK

Apparently, orders are pouring in for the 1st Tour Book so get in early. Ring Tony Keech on 0418 624 211 or Don Cruden on 0431 672 001 to secure your copy of this book. *special without you all. It was an overwhelming day made more easier knowing you were there for us all.*

Regards Joyce, Susan, Matt, Amber and Indi.

G'day to all from South Oz ...

Well we had a great Christmas lunch in the company of the parting C.O. and R.S.M. and LtCol Leven Lambert and WO1 Allen Ashman as the following images will attest to.



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from left:- RSM Johnny Craig, LtCol Roland Spackman
talking with Bob Whinnen



from left:- Bob and Carol Whinnen talking with
LtCol Leven Lambert and WO1 Allan Ashman



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from left:- Geoff and Anne Chandler, Chris Ashenden,
Tony Carr and Kerry Eichner

**In the New Year our lunches continued in January, February, and March
with personnel from 7RAR attending.**

Attendees at the February lunch



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L-R: Adrian Taylor, Keith Molyneux, **Cameron Clarke 7RAR**,
Lindsay Keely, Steve Czorba, Bob Lloyd,
Geoff Chandler, Chris Ashenden, **Levon Lambert 7RAR**,
Kerry Eichner and **Ted Taber 7RAR**.

March lunch



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from left:- Lt Harry Back, LtCol Levon Lambert,
Geoff Chandler and Adrian Taylor



from left:- Lindsay Kealy, Capt. Darrian Williams, Tony Carr,
Lt. Andrew Donaldson and Capt. Braydon Rainbow

We recently received info that the AATTV want to hold a VIETNAM VETERANS VIGIL (VVV) on the 3rd of August 2023 as it marks 60 years since the deployment/arrival of the Australian Army Training team in South Vietnam and 50 years since the combat troops withdrew. In response



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to that request, we have set about arranging the vigil to occur at the grave sites of our 7RAR KIA's in the Adelaide area and the Colonel of 7RAR has agreed to our request for a 7RAR soldier to also attend. The vigil will occur at 1100hrs, and photographs will be taken. The secretary has a list of all South Aust. KIA's and is in the process of contacting organisations and individuals to request that they participate. The response to this request to date has been very positive.

Planning is already underway for the Suoi Cha Pha commemorative service on the 6th August this year. Arrangements have been made with the Battalion for the service to be held at the base at Edinburgh north of Adelaide. Transport from the city to the base and return is being organised. Lunch for attendees will also be in place. More info on this will be sent to our S.A. members, however if any interstaters wish to attend they should email the secretary at sec7rarvetssa@gmail.com so that access to the base can be arranged.

Security at the base is very tight

Well that's it from SA for another Porky7 news

Pigs in Paradise

ANZAC Day Parade order of march

Mary MacKillop Catholic College Marching Band

Group 4 SECTION C (Assemble Cnr George & Charlotte)

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT QLD

22. 2/4 RAR ASSOCIATION (50th Anniversary)

23. 8/9 RAR ASSOCIATION (50th Anniversary)



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24. 5/7 RAR ASSOCIATION (50th Anniversary)

Brisbane Boys College Pipe Band

25. 7 RAR ASSOCIATION

Post march reunion. Will be at The Port Office Hotel, Corner Edward Street and Margaret Street.

Old and Bold



Jim Husband and son Scott. Considering Jim is pushing 90 he looks great



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Sam Giacomantonio recently left us – it was a shock as no one anticipated any problems. One day I'm talking to him about the monthly luncheon and then the next day he's gone. Sam had been a regular attendee at our monthly luncheons and had always entertained us with his banter. He and his wife Adriana had been strong supporters of the Qld branch of the association for many years and he will be sorely missed.

Below are some shots of the funeral.



Jack Ezzy, Graeme Griffith, Stoney Bourke, Ted Lewis, Col Fizzell, Richard and Jenny Hylard



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Joan Gillett, Mick King, RSL Rep, Nev Robinson and Darryl Blackwell

That's all from Queensland

Kev Gillett