



# Porky Seven News



Edition 63..Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment..August 2023



## From The President

By the time you receive this newsletter it will be less than a month out from the DVA Commemoration for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conclusion of Australian operations in South Vietnam to be held on Anzac Parade at the Vietnam Memorial. As mentioned in the last newsletter it is expected to include the entire ex-service community. It will be a busy week in Canberra with parliament sitting, so accommodation will be a premium. For those attending please note the details in this newsletter from the XO.

Plans for the 7 RAR parade on Saturday 30 September 2023 are developing nicely. As advised in the last newsletter, the parade will provide an opportunity for a formal ceremonial event with the new Iraq campaign honour on the Regimental Colour. The program 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. 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 and send a flyer out via email. It will be on a long weekend in SA so early and refundable bookings for accommodation and travel would be wise. It also falls on the AFL Grand Final day, so it will be a big day in Adelaide. 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. We have had some delays with the printer but I am confident that those who have ordered a copy will be very pleased with the book.

Mick Garraway





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## CALENDAR AUGUST TO DECEMBER

18 Aug 2023	Viet Veterans Day, National, see notice for ACT.
01 Sep 2023	7RAR 58 <sup>th</sup> Birthday.
11 Nov 2023	Remembrance Day, All States.
17 Nov 2023	Cut-off date for 3/23 Seven News.
30 Nov 2023	7RAR Parade, Adelaide.
25 Dec 2023	Christmas Day, all States.
01 Jan 2024	NewYears Day, all States.
26 Jan 2024	Australia Day, all States.



**"FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK"**

## **Commemorative Service on 18 August 2023**

### **Overview Location:**

Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial Anzac Parade, Campbell, Canberra Date/Time: Friday 18 August 2023 Pre-Service commences at 10:00am Commemorative service commences at 10:30am.

### **Ticketing for in-person attendance:**

All attendees must register in advance. An attendance pass is essential for entry to the service. Further information regarding attendance passes will be announced by DVA shortly and made available on the DVA webpage SHOWN BELOW.

<https://www.dva.gov.au/recognition/commemorating-all-who-served/commemorative-services/commemorative-services-australia-3>



If you register to attend please advise me before the 28<sup>th</sup> of July.

## Toilets

Temporary toilets, including some accessibility toilets, and hand-washing facilities will be installed specifically for the service. It is important to remember that there are only limited toilet facilities, with no infant changing or parenting facilities at the site.

## What to take

Prior to arriving at the commemoration, you should have everything you need, including any medications, warm and wet weather clothing and appropriate footwear.

Prior to progressing through the entry point, you should have your attendance pass in either electronic or paper form readily accessible to present to staff.

## Media

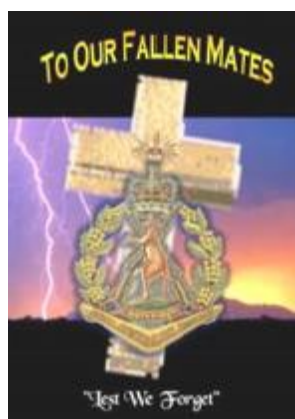
There will be media present at the service. Attendees should be aware that camera operators move around the site, and that cables may be laid along the ground. Please take care. The service will be broadcast live across Australia by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).

In order to preserve the solemnity of the commemoration, and as this service will be broadcast live, roaming by the general public to take photos during the service is not permitted. Accredited media will also be restricted to a media zone area.

I have been advise by the organizer of this function that I will lay a wreath to recognize we have participated in this Commemoration ceremony.

Tony Keech, XO/ED





**"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"**

**2784544 Robert Lindsay Hicks, A3 1<sup>st</sup> tour, passed away Wednesday  
19 April 2023.**

**4720380 Brian Keith Morisset, C/CHQ 2<sup>nd</sup> tour, passed away  
Thursday 27 April 2023.**

**3789141 Russell John Davey, A3 1<sup>st</sup> tour, passed away Thursday 18  
May 2023.**

**2675 James Husband, OAM, BEM, CSM A 2<sup>nd</sup> tour, passed away  
Sunday 21 May 2023.**

**217920 Geoffrey Reginald Bateman, OAM, 2<sup>nd</sup> tour, passed away  
Tuesday 4 July 2023.**

**WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**

## PEARLS FROM VICTORIA

### Wattle Park Anzac Service 1:00pm 23 April



Ian Dunn and I attended this year's service to represent 7RAR and carry our banner on behalf of Victorian Pigs.

The Service is a substantial event at a historically significant location and it's perfect for those who cannot attend the Melbourne ANZAC Day March in the city. It also provides the opportunity for descendants of Veterans to march behind their Unit banners. As usual it was well attended and on drew WW1 and WW2 units as well as local scouts and members of the Melbourne High School Cadets who formed the catafalque party. The main address

was given by Geoffrey Webb (Vice-President, Legacy Melbourne) of Sir Stanley Savidge who was one of the core drivers to work along with other members of the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion to found Legacy in 1923.

Legacy continues to operate in 2023 with the continued mission to support families of ADF men and women who have lost their life or health in conflicts or service to Australia ranging from WW1 to Afghanistan – and any future conflicts that we may become involved.

Stanley Savidge also organised the planting of 24<sup>th</sup> Battalions two Lone Pine seedlings at Wattle Park and the Shrine of Remembrance.

The other interesting speaker was Dr Ross Bastiaan who outlined all the other plaques that he has mounted in over 20 countries. His attendance today was to unveil his latest plaque





featuring a relief map of the Gallipoli Peninsula

It is the Committee's intention to add this Service to our annual events and to extend a welcome to other Victorian Pigs to join in for future years – full details to be advised in the first 2024 newsletter.



**Melbourne ANZAC Day March (25 April)**

In what has become almost an expected 'tradition' for the Anzac March – arrangements were somewhat chaotic for the forming up point and the start time.

We actually stepped off well ahead of our listed start so there was a bit of initial

difficulty in forming up properly and it was only well into the March Route that we formed a semblance of order. Ian Dunn used his usual skills to make us look good and comments have been passed to the organisers in the subsequent lessons learnt debrief. Our numbers were well down on what we been due to the covid problems experienced in previous years leading many to utilise local suburban and country Marches – or maybe it is a sign of our advancing years where the trip into the city is exhausting? Our numbers were bolstered by family members which may well be the future of following Anzac Days.

### **Bell's Hotel**

We ended up with quite a good number attending our post-March Lunch – estimated at 80-90 made of Pigs and their families together with descendants of 7<sup>th</sup> AIF and, this year, from 2/7<sup>th</sup> AIF. Lionel Boxer also regaled us with some stirring bagpipe tunes later in the afternoon, something he has done for us for many years now. The Roll of Honour was called as always with a mention of the sacrifices borne by the other 7s in attendance.



**Barry Hester and sons - they brought their families with them**





## More relaxing after the March

**Combined Shrine Pilgrimage – 6 August 2023**

**We will be holding our annual pilgrimage on Sunday 6 August. This short service will be held in the Sanctuary to commemorate the contribution of the various 7 Battalions – 7AIF, 2/7<sup>th</sup> AIF, 7 Bn 39-45 and 7RAR. In the case of 7RAR, we will be remembering Suoi Chau Pha.**

**All Victorian Pigs are welcome to come and remember our own time in SVN  
After the ceremony we will be heading off to Bell's to continue remembering fallen comrades or those who have subsequently passed**

### **Parting Shot**

**People who wonder if the glass is half empty or half full miss the point.  
The glass is refillable**

*Anonymous*

*Bill Anderson*

*0419-877-463*

*[lastwill@hotkey.net.au](mailto:lastwill@hotkey.net.au)*

## **THE BEST FROM THE WEST**

**Hello PIGS everywhere, from all PIGS in the WEST.**

**ANZAC DAY by Don Cruden**

**Thankfully we enjoyed a clear sky for our march through Perth this ANZAC DAY despite being threatened with rain. On parade carrying our banner was Madge BELL (Niece of the late Alec BELL KIA SVN) and Noel BELL (NO RELATION). Out in front we had Graham EDWARDS carrying the Aboriginal flag.**

**Marching were Julia & Albert JACOB (Family of Paul NAVARRE KIA SVN). We had one of Alberts wee sons carrying his uncle's Australian Flag alongside our banner. Also alongside our banner was Ben CLAZIE, carrying the Australian flag in honour of his uncle Alec BELL (KIA SVN).**

**Marching were Don CRUDEN, Geoff MURRAY, Geoff BROPHY, Nicole ANDERTON, Keith BATTTERSBY, Keith LEWIS, Peter CURLEY, Barry HUTCHINS, Charlie MATHESON, Del STICKLAND, Peter VLACHOU, Bob WALL, Peter WEYMOUTH, Richard ADAMS, Ted VON-PALESKE, Ian McNEE and Garry MILLS.**

**We were well supported by our RSM John DAVIES who this year was greatly assisted by his walking stick (for the first time) and in need of a knee operation which he has since had with good results.**

**After the parade we moved to our new watering hole "THE SHOE" (with big thanks to Charlie MATHESON'S EFFORT of getting in before the Arty mob). This location with good service was greatly appreciated by all attendees.**

**We had a large gathering of family members to give us oldies great support both marching and later at THE SHOE**

**Spunky FIELDHOUSE not marching these days but waiting for us at the SHOE.**

**Bob WALLER marched with 9 Sqn (RAAF 2 tours with this unit 1<sup>st</sup> tour with 7 RAR Mor Pl).**





Notable absentees Allan WEST (Moon boot medical), Bob CURRIE (Vic in hiding), Steve CHAMARETTE, Val O'BRIEN in Katanning and Vicki SHEPHERD up North of WA. By gosh after all these names I am sure I have missed someone.

Overall, another wonderful ANZAC DAY service in PERTH. Some photos to follow thanks to John DAVIES.



Graham Edwards



L to R: Madge BELL, John DAVIES, Ben CLAZIE





**L to R: Barry HUTCHINS, Geoff MURRAY, Ian McNEE**



**L to R: Garry MILLS, Peter VLACHOU, Barry HUTCHINS**

### **NATIONAL RSL BOWLS CARNIVAL**

The National RSL Bowls Carnival was recently held in Perth at the Manning Bowling Club from April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 6<sup>th</sup>, comprising the interstate Test Series between the states and the National Fours competition. In the Test Series, competing teams included teams from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and an Allies team made up with a number of players from different states as Tasmania were unable to form a side. Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup>, after the opening ceremony, saw WA up against NSW in the morning and the Allies in the afternoon, with WA winning both games. The following day saw WA up against SA and the big "V", with WA once again winning both games. Monday May 1<sup>st</sup>, it was WA against Qld, the only other unbeaten side, so it was a grand finale. In a closely fought match, WA headed into the last end four shots up and ended up winning by two, the first time WA

had won the Test Series in 46 years and Geoff Murray was a member of the winning WA State Side and is pictured below with the perpetual trophy.

After a rest day on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, the second part of the carnival commenced on Wed. 3<sup>rd</sup> with a National Fours competition, with teams from each state competing for the championship. The team Geoff was in won their section and then played in the quarter-finals Friday afternoon, which they won putting them in the first semi-final. Gordon Dickson also played in the National Fours competition; however, his team suffered illnesses and a forced shuffling of players and so didn't progress further than the sectional play. Gordon is still a fairly new player and I'm sure he'll nominate for next year's carnival to be played in Adelaide. Heavy overnight rain and Saturday morning drizzle meant that the semi-finals and final had to be transferred to the undercover synthetic green at Rossmoyne Bowling Club. Geoff's team went down in their first semi to another WA side, who went on to beat a Victorian side in the final, making it a clean sweep for WA, winning the Test Series as well as the National Fours. It was a wonderful carnival, with players catching up with past opponents and the usual good-natured sledging that goes with events like this and all players are looking forward to next year's carnival in Adelaide.







**Geoff with the perpetual Test Trophy**

**NOTES FROM VAL O'BRIEN (sister of Noel CROUCH)**

**Hi Don, from Valerie - photo taken Anzac morning in Katanning. I was accompanied by my niece Teresa from Wongan Hills and nephew Rodney living in Katanning. The service was well represented by residents including children braving the cold as they stood proudly with their parents. The memorial looked a picture in the morning sunlight showing the colourful wreaths. We visited the town centre to pay respect where Noel's plaque is situated and then on to the cemetery to lay a wreath for Noel on behalf of family and 7RAR. Lest We Forget.**

**All the best, Valerie.**



Noel's gravesite



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## **JOCK HENDERSON'S FUNERAL**

**There was a large gathering for Jock's funeral held on Saturday 8th July with the following 7 RAR members in attendance:**

**Pall-Bearers: Bob "The Wog" CUSACK, Casey ESKAMP, Spunky FIELDHOUSE**

**Attending: Don CRUDEN, Dave INGLES, Wally KLESZCZ, Paul LUSK, Peter VLACHOU, Steve CHAMARETTE, Charlie MATHESON,**

**Michael PAINTER, Bob WALL, Ian McNEE, Johann VAN DER WAL, John DAVIES.**

**Special Guest from the East was John LAWSON, who delivered a most eloquent eulogy. Paul LUSK gave an excellent address on behalf of George WENHLOWSKYJ who was at one time Jock's Platoon Commander.**

**Don CRUDEN gave a brief summary of Jock's military career, including both tours of SVN with 7RAR. He then recited the ODE.**

**Condolences were sent from: Ted LEWIS CSM C COY 1<sup>ST</sup> TOUR,**

**Brian LORBACK (3 RAR), Kevin TRUIN A COY 3 RAR(WODONGA). Apologies from Graham EDWARDS and John BURROWS, both in hospital.**

**It was fitting that we had a Piper in attendance (David CARR ex UK Para) and the coffin entered the Chapel with the playing of the "COCK OF THE NORTH" and upon departure "FLOWERS OF THE FOREST" and "THE SCOTTISH SOLDIER" - all a fitting tribute to a great soldier. Margaret and family wish to thank one and all for their attendance with special thanks to Casey ESKAMP and to John and Kerry BURROWS whose help and assistance in the past few days has been gratefully accepted.**

**John LAWSON gave a very moving eulogy as follows:**



Margaret, Betty and Paul, all of us here today share your great sense of loss, particularly those who served with Jock in 6 Platoon in South Vietnam with Jock as our Platoon Sergeant. I must thank and acknowledge the boys of 6 platoon here in Western Australia with the other former members of 7 RAR who kept in contact with and supported Jock in his later years.

By any measure, Sergeant Frederick "Jock" Henderson was one of the best. Jock emulated the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Regiment.

Jock served in Malaya and then as a Section Commander in the first tour of 7 RAR in South Vietnam. It was here Jock was able to observe the best and not so good. Jock inculcated the best in himself and was alert to poor and selfish soldierly attitude towards fellow soldiers and would abruptly deal with it. This would set the standard for 6 Platoon.

In June of 1969, Jock was tasked with the Infantry Corp training of those who came direct from recruit training into 7RAR and allotted to 6 Platoon. This was to get the battalion up to strength and ensure a high standard of battle efficiency and combat discipline was attained in a very short time.

This placed demands on all members of the battalion and it was here that Jock's strengths became obvious and valued. Jock personified the best of the Australian Infantry Sergeant. This created respect, confidence and trust in Jock and in each other. As a result, Jock received the Commanders Commendation from Colonel Ron Grey.

Terry Holmes, a member of 6 platoon suggests it was Jock's moral leadership by not discriminating who or what you were that united the platoon, with so many members from different backgrounds.

If you could survive Jock's demand for discipline, competence and commitment, you could achieve all the tasks the platoon was set. This made the platoon strong and resilient. The achievements of the platoon are well recorded, which Jock was greatly proud of and his part in it.

For Jock, this mutual respect and trust could not be replicated once we returned to Australia and many of us returned to civilian life. Unfortunately, Jock was

told by the new leadership that his methods were no longer appropriate, so he left the Army. How wrong they were.

All of us became the beneficiaries of Jock's example, for which we are most grateful. We will honor our memory of Jock with respect, admiration, and deep affection.

Charles Churchill an Eighteenth Century Poet put it succinctly.

Just his conceptions, natural and great;

His feelings strong, his words enforced with weight...

View the whole scene, with critic judgement scan,

And then deny him merit if you can.

Where he falls short, tis Nature's fault alone;

Where he succeeds, the merit's all his own.



Farewell Jock



Some of

Jock's 6 Platoon



## 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY MEDALLION OF END OF VIETNAM WAR

A commemorative medallion and certificate are available for all Australian men and women who served in Vietnam, and to the families of veterans who have since passed away or were tragically killed-in-action during the Vietnam War. To apply please visit the website [dva.cov.au/vietnam50](http://dva.cov.au/vietnam50).

The above is an extract from Vetaffairs newspaper.

### NOTE FROM JOYCE HENDERSON

This is a note from Joyce Henderson following her late husband Bill's funeral. It was included in the last newsletter but unfortunately came out jumbled up so it is included again.

*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 for all your assistance at Bill's funeral. We couldn't have made his farewell so 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.*

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### News from South Australia

Much has happened in SA since the last Porky 7 News.

First I need to advise that the Battalion has assigned a large area within one of their buildings to display significant items pertaining to 7RAR's history.

They have asked for items from the Vietnam era and many of us have items from that time which are precious to us

The Battalion 2IC is heading up this project and has asked for photographs of items to be forwarded by email to [doc@antmail.com.au](mailto:doc@antmail.com.au)

**NOTE - He does not want the items sent to the Battalion until officially requested.**

Prior to Anzac Day we held the 7RAR Second Tour Vietnam Reunion. Preregistrations for this event gave us an indication of a good attendance of approx. 400. As we neared the reunion date preregistrations started to be cancelled. With the unexpected flooding in Queensland and New South Wales some cancellations were to be expected. However, some may have been cancelling because they were being Covid cautious. One of the guys from 5 platoon drove to SA, went fishing for whiting in the Spencer Gulf, then returned to NSW. In the three weeks before the Reunion we received 28 veteran cancellations; many were couples.

With many 7RAR personnel deployed to NSW and Qld (including the C.O. and the R.S.M.) to assist with the flooding clean-up, I have no doubt that the 7RAR Adjutant, Captain Darrian Williams, would have said that a picture is worth a thousand words here are the pics.













Victoria Hopkins, widow of Matthew Hopkins KIA Afghanistan,  
talking with Karl Metcalf and Adrian Taylor

**It was a great 2 days visiting the base.**

**On the Saturday a group of adventurous Veterans and Wives went on a planned bus trip to the Barossa Valley visiting Wineries and the local chocolate factory**





yes a good time was had by all

Thank goodness that Sunday was day of rest before Dawn Service at the 7RAR Base

### **Dawn Service**

Having been to every Dawn Service held on North Terrace Adelaide since returning from Vietnam I have to say that the Service held at the Base was the best I have ever attended.

It was appropriately sombre, well planned and very well attended.







After the Gunfire Breakfast it was time to leave The Horseshoe Lines and travel to the city for the march and of course to catch up with old friends



l-r 'Doc' Russell, Karl Metcalf, Pete Sochaki, Adrian Taylor, Bob Whinnen  
'Moose' Gully, ??, Brian Ryan, Sid Thomas - seated, Gill Green





a group of 7RAR Veterans including  
Bob Hill, Kerry Eichner, Tony Carr and Chris Ashenden





The Battalion was following behind us, and having completed our march, we lined the road as they passed.









And another Anzac Day march was completed We had our monthly lunches in May, June and in July had the pleasure of the company of some 7RAR soldiers.

### JULY LUNCH



I-r Barry Leesue, Cpl Joe Fauser, Tony Carr, Pte Rory Murray,  
Geoff Chandler, Adrian Taylor



I-r Pte Zac Baldwin, Pte Anthony Stebbing, Kerry Eichner,  
LCpl Ikrar Putra, Pte Callan Rice and Carol Leesue

**With the July lunch done and dusted it was time to concentrate on the final preparations for the Commemoration Service for the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Suoi Cha Pha.**

**Once again the Battalion were most supportive and on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August a bus arrived with not only the Catafalque Party for a practice run but also a clean up crew to wash a polish the Memorial and its surrounds. Because August weather in SA can be quite unpredictable arrangements had been made that the Chapel be on standby. The Catafalque Party had a practice run in the Chapel and again the clean up crew did their thing and well before midday all was in place for the SCP Service come hail or shine.**



**The SCP Service**  
**The Service commenced at 1030hrs**



**So, after a very busy 7 months perhaps we in South Australia can relax a little.**



**Bob Whinnen welcomed everyone**  
**Tony Carr read the Battle of Soui Chau Pha**



Kerry Eichner read the first tour KIA list  
Geoff Chandler read the bunker system assault at the Song Ria  
'Doc' Russell read the second tour casualty list  
Cpl Daniel Knight read the Afghanistan action report "Hoppy"  
this was followed with the laying of wreaths, the Ode, Last Post, a minute's  
silence, and the Rouse. Padre Paul Ghanem then gave the Battalion Prayer  
which was followed by the National Anthem then the Benediction.  
The Catafalque Party then dismounted. Bob Whinnen, President of 7RAR  
Veterans SA, then closed the ceremony.  
We then adjourned to Benjamin's on Franklin for lunch and drinks.  
As would be expected everyone from Battalion were exceptional in the  
execution of their duties, from the planning stage through to the service on SCP  
Day.  
However, I will make special mention to the musicians who were superb.  
The Catafalque Party were faultless in their drill and the photographs taken by  
Pte Johnny Huang were very professional. That he managed to send me the  
photographs promptly was also very much appreciated.  
and the Rouse. Padre Paul Ghanem then gave the Battalion Prayer  
which was followed by the National Anthem then the Benediction.







So, after a very busy 7 months perhaps we in South Australia can relax a little.  
'Doc' - Secretary, 7RAR Veterans SA.

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Monsoonal rains sweep across the plains west of Route 52 - 1970



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6 Platoon B Coy ( first tour ) organised a reunion in Canberra this year over the ANZAC Day / weekend.

Peter Kerley lead the 18 th 'Contingent' of 14 of us with the Victorian 7 RAR banner. Those in the march this year came from all states.

From Qld ; Ian Cameron ( Lieutenant in '67 ) , Phil Littler From NSW: Bob May ( Sargent in '67), John Wackett, Ian Gordon From Vic; Peter Kerley, Frank Rinaldi, John Merrifield, John Parkinson, Max Palmer, Doug Ramsay From SA; Graham Silver; Roscoe Kelly From WA ; Kevin Kirkup







## Pigs in Paradise



On 29 May I travelled to Coolum Beach to say goodbye to Jim Husband. I wasn't alone as you can see by the pic above, as a couple of hundred people line up to pay respect as he leaves the church.

Pall Bearers for the coffin were three from 7RAR and three from 6RAR. Fitting as he had been a CSM in 7RAR and RSM in 6RAR

Eddie Edmonds, Peter & Vicki Lloyd, Nev Robinson and Wayne and Dorothy Hill attended with me.

Kev Gillett

Brisbane





Must be Infantry

Kev Gillett

Qld