



Porky Seven News



Edition 65 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battaion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. April 2024

From The President



Dear Members of the Seventh Battalion Association, I am humbled to assume the role of Association President from Mick Garraway and would like to take the opportunity to provide you my perspective on some key issues that I trust will be of interest to you. I also would like to welcome Glen Kuschert as the Association Vice President and offer our commitment to you all to act in the best interests of the Association.

First, I express on behalf of us all, our sincere thanks to Major General Mick Garraway for his tenure as our President and acknowledge the detailed oversight he provided for the Association and the initiatives he progressed for its continued strong standing. On behalf of us all, congratulations Mick on your recent promotion and appointment as the Commander, Multi National Force and Observers in the Sinai. We wish you every success in this demanding mission and environment.

You will all be aware of the Government decision resulting from the recent Strategic Defence Review that the Seventh Battalion is again to be linked with the Fifth Battalion to reform the Fifth/Seventh Battalion, based in Darwin as part of the 1st Brigade. While I make no comment on the circumstances of this direction, I acknowledge the disappointment we all share in this surprising development. I am particularly mindful for those of you who served in our Battalion between 1965 and 1973, this is the second time you have witnessed the Seventh Battalion being removed from the Army's Order of Battle through linking.

The role of our Association is therefore even more important to help ensure our unique history, achievements and identity continues to be fostered, acknowledged and celebrated. Those of you who served with the Fifth/Seventh Battalion after linking in 1973 will recall how important it was to ensure key aspects of the Seventh Battalion became part of the fabric of the new Battalion.

I also appreciate from discussions with many of our members of how increasingly important the role of the Association was thereafter. With the impending re-linking to occur in December this year, your continued support



Porky Seven News



Edition 65 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battaion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. April 2024

and contribution to our Association will fulfill the same outcome in this next chapter.

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Von Lambert has advised there will be two events to mark the relinking. First will be a 'Farewell from Adelaide Parade' to be held at the Torrens Parade Ground on 26 October to thank the people of Adelaide for their support to the Battalion since relocating from Darwin in 2011. The Commanding Officer noted this will be the final opportunity for the Battalion to parade prior to a smaller internal event on the linking day in Darwin on 3 December. I encourage as many of us as possible to join the Battalion for the Farewell Parade in Adelaide, to celebrate our shared service and meet with the current serving members. Further information will be provided separately as the details are confirmed.

More recently, the Australian War Memorial daily Last Post Ceremony held on 16 March, had one of our own, Corporal Mathew Hopkins as the subject of the ceremony. This occurred at the initiative of Mat's widow, Victoria, on the 15th anniversary of his loss when killed in action in Afghanistan. On behalf of the Association, thank you Victoria for making this moving occasion a reality, the Commanding Officer for his address and so many Seventh Battalion veterans from Vietnam to Afghanistan who attended to mark the occasion. If you missed the event, this can be viewed on the AWM Last Post Ceremonies on You Tube.

Finally, with ANZAC Day soon before us, may I take this opportunity to thank you all for your service to our Nation, the Australian Army and the Seventh Battalion in particular. I hope we can all find some way to participate in a Dawn Service or parade, or personal reflection to remember those we served with but no longer amongst us, are never forgotten.

In closing for this edition, I acknowledge and thank the other members of the Association Executive team for your continued efforts, that includes many years of voluntary effort and personal time. I look forward to making this contribution to our Association as your President and welcome your counsel and advice.

Shane Gabriel
President





Porky Seven News



Edition 65 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battaion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. April 2024

Committee of Management

Patrons

Lieutenant Colonel Levon Lambert

President

Brigadier Shane Gabriel, DSC, AM (Retd)

Vice President

Major Glen Kuschert, (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: New Email: tkeech38@gmail.com

Committee Members

Mr Brice Stokes and Mr John Lawson





Porky Seven News



Edition 65 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battaion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. April 2024



CONTENTS PAGE - CALENDAR APR 2024 to AUG 2024

Page/s

- 1-2 From The President. Merry Christmas to ALL!!!
- 3. Association Committee of Management.
- 4. Contents - Calendar April 2024 to August 2024
- 5. VALE.
- 6. From The Editor's Desk.
- 7-11. News From South Australia.
- 12-15. The Best from The West.
- 16. Brisbane order of march.

APRIL 2024 TO AUGUST 2024

Thu Apr 25 ANZAC DAY ALL STATES.

Tue Aug 6 56th Anniversary of the Battle Suoi Chau Pha.

Fri Aug 9 Cut-off date for articles for 2/2024 Seven News.

Sun Aug 18 57th Anniversary Battle of Long Tan/Vietnam Vets
Day.

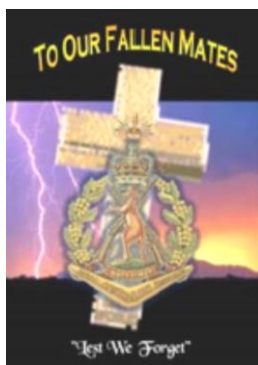




Porky Seven News



Edition 65 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battaion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. April 2024



**“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”**

**54276 Mervyn Eaton, 7RAR Puckapunyal, passed away Wed 29 November
2023.**

**235178 Donald Robert Gillies, A Coy/SPT Coy 1st tour, passed away Sunday
7 January 2024.**

5716343 Denis Gates, B5 2nd tour, passed away Thursday 11 January 2024.

52612 Brian Stephen Hicks, 2d tour, passed away Friday 26 January 2024.

**3796000 William John Abernathy, C7 2nd tour, passed away Monday 5
February 2024.**

**218334 Robert William Wilson, A Coy 2nd tour, passed away Saturday 16
March 2024.**

424171 Geoffrey Paul Mainke, C9 2nd tour, passed away April 2024.





Porky Seven News



Edition 65 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battaion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. April 2024



From the Editor's Desk

Well members it looks like we are all in the grasp of, "Time and Tide for No man or Woman". I am not sure which way the world is heading with the uneasy outlook of things happening in the conflicts in Europe and Israel.

As we all know the reprint of the Book covering the 1st Tour in Vietnam was done by Karl Metcalf, and what a great job he did. We are now into the sale of a reprint after we sold all the 200 copies of the first print. I do know that Karl is now in possession of about 30 copies left after the reprint covered 100 copies so if anyone is still wanting to buy a copy please follow the instructions below.

"Porky's People". If you wish to buy a copy of this book please advise your postal address Tony Keech on: tkeech38@gmail.com Please send your \$200 to the bank account shown here:

ANZ Bank account: BSB: 012 429 Account Number: 190140003

and please use your name or membership number. Once you have deposited the funds into the account please send a copy of the deposit to Tony Keech. All your details will be forwarded to Karl Metcalf who will post the book to you.

Just a reminder that 7RAR will move back to Darwin at the end of 2024 and will be joined again with 5RAR and they will become once again 5/7RAR Mechanised Battalion. Well everyone have a great ANZAC Day this year and enjoy whatever you do.

Tony XO/Editor





Porky Seven News



Edition 65 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battaion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. April 2024

News from South Australia

Attendance at our Christmas lunch was good.
The attending 7RAR personnel stayed with us until about 1600hrs.



Christmas Lunch

PTE Cooper Watson - Tony Carr - Kerry Eichner,
PTE Om Patel - PTE Hasel Patel



Christmas Lunch

PTE Eric Lee - PTE Nick Merriman - PTE Etham Farrall - Bob Whinnen





Porky Seven News



Edition 65 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battaion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. April 2024



Christmas Lunch

Chris Ashenden - PTE Liam Streeter - PTE Tony Garlick - Bob Lloyd



Christmas Lunch

Linda Whinnen - Anne Chandler - Geoff Chandler - PTE Cooper Watson



Porky Seven News



Edition 65 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battaion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. April 2024



January Lunch - from left to right

Adjutant, CAPT Matt Wylie - Michael Grech - MAJ Edward Wright,
Bob Lloyd - Tony Carr - Kerry Eichner - Lindsay Kealy,
Chris Ashenden - CAPT Darrian Williams - CO, LTCOL Levon Lambert,
Barry Leesue - XO, MAJ Rupert Hindle - Bob Whinnen,
"Doc" Russell - RSM, WO1 Allan Ashman - Keith Molyneux

Our January lunch was very well attended by ten of our own members, the CO, RSM and four senior officers from the Battalion. During the lunch Bob Whinnen presented LTCOL Levon Lambert with a pair of Kings crown lapel badges. The Colonel suitably responded to the gift.





Porky Seven News



Edition 65 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battaion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. April 2024



March Lunch

**Pte Fleming - Pte Fenech - Geoff Chandler,
Lindsay Kealy - Pte Frahn**



March Lunch

**Bob Lloyd - Pte Marko (JJ) - Michael Grech,
Pte Swan - Chris Ashenden**



Porky Seven News



Edition 65 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battaion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. April 2024

We had a mixture of tankies and grunts at our March lunch.

ANZAC Day

The RAR's form up area is on the southern side of North Terrace between Pulteney Street and Frome Road... be there by 930hrs. Chris Ashenden will be the OC pre the march with other duties etc being assigned at our April lunch.

"Doc" has been 'voluntold' by his lovely wife (manager of the Oaks Aged care facility, Mount Gambier) that he is conducting the ANZAC Day service at the facility where there is a WW2 British Army Veteran and several war widows.

The residents are making their own wreath. Pics of this event will be in the next issue of Porky7 news.

SUOI CHAU PHA Service

This years' service is being held by the Battalion at the Horseshoe lines, on the Military Base, Edinburgh, Sth. Aust. on the 6th August... further info will be emailed to SA members as it becomes available.

"Doc" ... Sec., 7RAR Veterans SA



Porky Seven News



Edition 65 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battaion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. April 2024

THE BEST FROM THE WEST

Hello PIGS everywhere, from all PIGS in the WEST.

ANZAC DAY

There are no form-up details as yet but I imagine we would be in the same place as previous years, north side of St Georges Terrace near King St, look for the Banner. After the march we meet at The Shoe, Yagan Square.

A COMPANY 2ND TOUR REUNION - NOW FULL BATTALION

Following the success of the A Coy 2nd Tour Reunion held in Mittagong in October 2023, the organising committee have decided to hold another reunion, this time in 2025 and at this stage between 14th-16th of October. It looks like this proposed reunion is gaining momentum and there is a lot of interest showing from within WA and so the committee have decided to open it up to ALL PIGS across Australia.

They haven't booked the venue at the moment but they have had preliminary talks with the venue management. Once they confirm a booking and probably by the next newsletter, they would have prepared a registration form and relevant information. One reason for early notification is that if Eastern Staters wish to book the Indian Pacific to travel west, they need to book 12 months in advance. Just recently Jetstar announced that they are flying direct to Busselton from Sydney and Melbourne three times per week which is a good incentive for likely attendees.

So if you think you might be interested in attending, please contact either Gordon or Phil as per below to register your interest:

Phil Clark: 0413 991 686. philipclark@y7mail.com
Gordon Dickson: 0418 943 729. waikikirooftiles@aapt.net.au

Regards Dicko





Porky Seven News



Edition 65 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. April 2024

ALASKAN VISIT

Graham and Noelene Edwards are heading to Alaska on the 24th April and therefore will not be with us this ANZAC DAY. We wish them a happy and safe holiday and look forward to their report upon their return.

BRIAN HICKS' FUNERAL, BUSSELTON

Accompanied by my son-in-law Paul Graham (my driver), we attended the funeral for the late Major Brian HICKS of Busselton, (RETURN JOURNEY OF 524KM) on Mon 5th February 2024. Also attending was Bob WOODS Pl Comd D Coy 2nd Tour. Bob lives in the town area so it was nice to catch up with him, sad though the occasion was. Brian served with 1 RAR both in KOREA (1955-56) and with the same battalion in MALAYA 1960-62. Later with 7 RAR SVN 2nd Tour. I gave a brief history of Brian's service and the ODE. We had our 7 RAR sign on display which was greatly appreciated by family members. Brian was 91 at the time of his death and was our eldest member.

Vale BRIAN. Brian's daughter Vanessa sent a thank-you to Don for his attendance at Brian's funeral, as follows:

Hi Don,

So lovely to talk with you and I really am touched you'll be representing 7RAR at Dad's service in Busselton on Monday Feb 5th at 10:30am.

Dad's history + children:

1st Marriage to Beverley (now passed) with Children Grant, Nadine and Vanessa

2nd Marriage to Margaret (now passed) with Craig (step-son, not biological but to me he's our brother regardless).





Porky Seven News



Edition 65 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. April 2024

Also here is the message I've been sending out to Dad's contacts regarding his passing and service in case you'd like to copy and paste it into an email to 7RAR members.

Sending you this message to advise the passing of our beloved dad Brian Stephen Hicks. Brian passed away peacefully in Busselton on January 26th after a wonderfully full life of 91 years. Dad's funeral service will be held on Monday Feb 5th @ 10:30am AWST at William Barrett & Sons Funeral Home, 105 Bussell Highway, West Busselton WA. For those who can't make it in person, the service can be viewed via this link, and will be available for 24hrs

following. <https://www.barrettfunerals.com.au/tribute/brian-hicks-32422/>

Warm regards, Vanessa Hicks (With Nadine, Grant & Craig)

Thanks so much.

Vanessa

DON'S CATCH-UP by DON CRUDEN

We meet our members in many places and it was with delight that I met up with Athol and Veronica DONEGAN (Toodyay) on Tues 26th March at my local café. Over a chat I found out that Athol, 5 weeks earlier, had triple bi-pass surgery and he was recovering quite well. We are all aging so it is extra nice to meet and greet members whenever possible.

PETER WILSON'S FUNERAL

Peter WILSON'S funeral (C9 1st Tour) was held on Thu 30th Nov with the following in attendance: Don Cruden, Betty, Melonie & Allan West, Ian Garthwaite, Graham Edwards, Peter Curley, Geoff Brophy, Graham Gutteridge, Kerry & Graham Steele, Bob & Dawn Wall.

Apologies were received from Spunky Fieldhouse and Bob Curry. We formed a Guard of Honour, a fitting tribute to one of our members. I would like to see more members in attendance, irrespective of what





Porky Seven News



Edition 65 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battaion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. April 2024

tour you served on, as any death requires our respect to our comrade in arms.

KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL KINGS PARK

Steve Chamarette provided this information regarding the Korean War Memorial Kings Park WA. To access it, click on the link below, where you will find biographies for General Ron Grey and WO1 Reg Bandy, written by Mike O'Brien, who both served in Korea and also with 7RAR 2nd Tour.

The information was originally to be placed on the Remembrance Walk

App which detailed all the ADF Memorials in Kings Park.

This App was initiated through the Highgate RSL and DVA funding in

2018. However, currently we are having a few technical and funding issues to add this information to the App.

Consequently, Steve requested the AWM to place the information on their "Places of Pride" web site.

<https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/269038>

DON'S FLAGS

Don advises that there are TWO only 7RAR Flags left and when they're gone, they are GONE. They'll become obsolete when we link up with 5RAR again so they'll become collector's items, get in early.

Cost is \$50 including Postage and Handling.

Please make payment to 7RAR(WA) Commonwealth Bank.

BSB; 066132 Account; 00913220

When making payment please include your SURNAME and FLAG.





Porky Seven News



Edition 65 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battaion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. April 2024

Contact Don by email at: dcruden1@bigpond.com
or by phone on 08 9374 0014 or 0431 672 001 to secure one of the last
flags.





Porky Seven News



Edition 65 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battaion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. April 2024

Pigs in Paradise

I have been in and out of hospital with mobility issues over the last month or so, thus there is little news from the North

ANZAC Day

Brisbane Order of March

This year we lead the RAR Associations. Look for the number "45" and our Porky Banner on George Street

FUP @ 10:45am. Anticipated step off 11:00

45. 7 RAR ASSOCIATION

46. 8 RAR ASSOCIATION

47. 9 RAR ASSOCIATION

48. 2/4 RAR ASSOCIATION

49. 8/9 RAR ASSOCIATION

50. 5/7 RAR ASSOCIATION

51. 1 RAR ASSOCIATION

52. 2 RAR ASSOCIATION

53. 3 RAR ASSOCIATION

54. 4 RAR ASSOCIATION

55. 5 RAR ASSOCIATION

56. 6 RAR ASSOCIATION (Rifle Company Butterworth Veterans)

Reunion

At the Port Office Hotel @ 40 Edward St, Brisbane City QLD
4000





Porky Seven News



Edition 65 .. Newsletter of the 7th Battaion, The Royal Australian Regiment Association .. April 2024

Key